

Abu Iyad assassin sentenced to death

TUNIS (AP) — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) has sentenced to death the turncoat bodyguard who gunned down Salah Khalaf (Abu Iyad) and two others, on the eve of the Gulf war, Palestinian sources reported. Hamza Abu Zaid, 30, will be executed in Yemen sometime after Ramadan ends in mid-April, the sources said on condition of anonymity. The PLO says that Palestinian dissident Abu Nidal ordered the killings. Zaid who once worked for Abu Nidal, broke ranks with his former boss in the late 1980s and joined the PLO, where he became a bodyguard for Abu Iyad. On Jan. 11, Zaid killed Abu Iyad, PLO security chief Hayel Abdul Hamid, and Abdul Hamid's chief bodyguard, Abu Mohammad Al Omari, during a meeting at Abdul Hamid's home in Carthage. Zaid took Abdul Hamid's wife and daughter hostage during a tense six-hour standoff with Tunisian police. The family was liberated unharmed after police stormed the house and arrested Zaid. Palestinian sources in Tunis, where the PLO has its headquarters, said that Tunisian authorities quietly turned Zaid over to the PLO about a month later.

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HAPPY EASTER

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Assad meets Aspin

DAMASCUS (AP) — President Hafez Al Assad met Saturday with U.S. Congressman Les Aspin, Chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, for a discussion of the post-Gulf war Middle East and the hostage situation. Mr. Aspin, a Wisconsin Democrat, arrived Friday evening in Damascus and met earlier Saturday with Foreign Minister Farouq Al Sharaa for talks on the Arab-Israeli conflict, turmoil in Iraq and the situation in the area in general, the official Arab News Agency (SANA) reported. After the two-hour meeting with Mr. Sharaa, Mr. Aspin flew to the Mediterranean coastal city of Latakia to meet with Mr. Assad. SANA said, U.S. Ambassador Edward Djerejian attended both meetings, the agency said.

Khomeini son to lead Iranian pilgrims

NICOSIA (AP) — The son of the late Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini will lead the Iranian pilgrims going to the annual pilgrimage this year, the first time Iran has participated in the annual rite since relations with Saudi Arabia soured four years ago, the official news agency said Saturday. The Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) said the country's top spiritual leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, appointed Ahmad Khomeini, a lesser clergyman, to lead the delegation. The issue of the pilgrimage was finally resolved last month, paving the way for resumed Riyadh-Tehran ties.

PCC to meet on April 21

TUNIS (R) — The Palestine Central Council (PCC) will meet April 21, 10 days after U.S. Secretary of State James Baker ends a Middle East tour he is due to start on Sunday, the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) confirmed Saturday. It will be the first meeting since the end of the Gulf war of the council which is an intermediate body between the Executive Committee chaired by Yasser Arafat and the Palestine National Council. The central council will discuss efforts to solve the Arab-Israeli conflict and the situation in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. Mr. Arafat's political adviser Bassam Abu Sharif told Reuters.

U.S. firefighters cap 20th gushing well in Kuwait

KUWAIT (R) — American firefighters capped the 20th gushing well in Kuwait's wrecked oilfields Saturday and piped in sea water to tackle fires in 500 wells. More than 500 of Kuwait's oilwells were set ablaze in the Gulf war, putting Kuwait's vital oil industry out of action. More than 500 wells are on fire and another 80 are gushing oil. Up to six million barrels of oil a day are going up in flames, spewing out a choking black smog. Firefighters from the Texas-based Boots and Coots Company, one of three U.S. firms working in the oilfields, successfully sealed a well spouting oil high into the air in the Ahmadi field, south of Kuwait City. Saturday, a Reuters correspondent saw them lower a steel pipe known as a "stinger" into the well to seal it. Support workers then pumped in mud to force down the oil and would later seal the well with cement.

Turkey debating freeing prisoners

ANKARA (R) — Turkey is considering freeing most of the 46,000 prisoners in the country's jails in a major shake-up of its legal system, a government spokesman said. Kurdish guerrillas and people convicted of undermining the state would not be released under the terms of a parliamentary bill which would scrap anti-communist laws in force for nearly 70 years. The sentences of the majority of the other prisoners in Turkish jails would be suspended. The bill, to be debated Monday, would commute the death sentences of some 270 prisoners to 36 years in jail, government spokesman Kemal Akkaya told reporters after a cabinet meeting in Ankara.

Iraq accepts U.N. terms for ceasefire

Combined agency dispatches

IRAQ Saturday accepted U.N. Security Council conditions for a formal Gulf war ceasefire.

Members of the 250-seat National Assembly voted overwhelmingly to accept the terms after a five-hour debate, assembly sources said.

The resolution passed on Wednesday calls on Iraq to destroy its weapons of mass destruction, impounds part of its oil revenues to pay reparations to Kuwait and paves the way for the withdrawal of U.S.-led allied troops occupying about 15 per cent of Iraq.

"We are forced to accept the resolution in order to foil the American-NATO-Zionist conspiracy against Iraq," said a statement earlier from two assembly committees recommending acceptance.

The ceasefire terms stipulate that Iraq has to accept the "inviolability" of the border with Kuwait it agreed in 1963 and provide for a U.N. observer force to monitor a demilitarized zone. Iraqi officials and the media have said the resolution was designed to rob Baghdad of its sovereignty and mortgage its national wealth.

National Assembly Speaker Saadi Mehdi Saleh Friday described the 20-page resolution as "unfair and oppressive."

U.N. informed

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Iraq has told the United Nations it accepts last Wednesday's Security Council resolution setting tough terms for a formal ceasefire, an Iraqi source said Saturday.

If this is confirmed and judged to be responsive to the council, an immediate ceasefire replaces the five-week-long informal cessation of hostilities between Iraq and the United States-led alliance.

The Iraqi source said Baghdad's acceptance was contained in the last paragraph of identical, 23-page letters sent to the U.N. secretary-general and the president of the Security Council by Iraq's foreign minister.

A U.N. spokesman confirmed a letter had been received from Iraq's U.N. mission but said it was still being translated from Arabic.

The assembly's session followed a Friday night meeting of the ruling Revolutionary Command Council chaired by President Saddam Hussein.

The Iraqi News Agency (INA) said Mr. Saleh attended the council meeting, the second in less than 24 hours.

"The council discussed the re-

turn to normalcy in the northern parts of the homeland and the latest political developments in the international arena," INA said, in an apparent reference to the Security Council resolution and the failed Kurdish rebellion in northern Iraq.

Under the terms of Wednesday's resolution, the ceasefire formally takes effect when Iraq officially notifies the United Nations that it has accepted the terms.

The government, after crushing the post-war rebellions by Kurdish rebels in the north and Shiite Muslims in the south, offered amnesty to Kurds and promised political reforms in a new constitution.

The U.S.-initiated ceasefire resolution was approved by a vote of 12-1, with Cuba voting against and Yemen and Ecuador abstaining. Among other conditions, it demands Iraq destroy its long-range missiles and chemical and biological weapons.

"Mr. Saleh was quoted on Saturday as saying the new government of Prime Minister Saadoun Hammadi, appointed March 23, would work for a multi-party system, press freedom and individual liberties.

"The democratic process in Iraq is irreversible," Mr. Saleh told the Kurdish newspaper Al

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Iraq rejects U.N. resolution on rebellion as interference

Combined agency dispatches

IRAQ Saturday rejected Friday's Security Council resolution condemning Baghdad's handling of the Kurdish rebellion and demanding that Baghdad give aid groups access to those in need.

The Iraqi News Agency (INA) said in a commentary the resolution was unjust and aimed at interfering in Baghdad's internal affairs. It ignored Iraq's expressed readiness to receive a U.N. mission to Kurdistan.

The commentary said Turkey and Iran, which both spoke in support of the resolution, had a "shameful history" of persecuting Kurds.

"Iraqi Kurdish citizens, who are loyal to their people and soil, have begun returning in thousands to their towns, villages and farms after the collapse of the rebellion carried out by hired gangs... the collapse of the rebellion with such speed led to the disappointment of the USA, Britain and France," the commentary said.

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"This prompted them to peddle this weak, miserable resolution at the U.N. Security Council," it said.

The vote on the 15th resolution against Iraq since it invaded Kuwait last Aug. 2 was 10 to three with two abstentions. Cuba, Yemen and Zimbabwe cast the negative votes at Iraq's meeting and China and India abstained.

Initiated by France, countries voting in favour of the resolution were Belgium, the United States, Britain, the Soviet Union, Austria, Ecuador, Ivory Coast, Romania and Zaire.

Nations which declined to support the resolution said it was an unwarranted interference in Iraq's internal affairs and violated a cardinal principle of the United Nations Charter.

The resolution demands Iraq, "immediately end this repression" and expressed hope that "an open dialogue will take place to ensure that the human and political rights of all Iraqi citizens are respected" (see page 2).

(Continued on page 5)

Egypt jails soldier for 12 years for Sinai attack

SUEZ, Egypt (Agencies) — An Egyptian military court sentenced a soldier Saturday to 12 years' hard labour for killing four Israelis in a solo attack across the Sinai border.

Ayman Mostafa, 23, was found guilty of murder and attempted murder, stealing weapons and ammunition and leaving the country illegally.

Mostafa was reading the Holy Koran before Saturday's session began. He raised it over his head when the sentence was announced.

"Allahu akbar," he yelled. Twenty-five other Israelis were injured in the Nov. 25 attack when Mostafa crossed 30 metres into Israel and sprayed bullets into passing vehicles with an assault rifle.

At the time Israel sharply criticised Egypt and called on it to prevent similar attacks in the future.

Mostafa pleaded not guilty when the trial opened in December. The charges could have carried the death sentence.

However a court ruling said: "The accused was not under any mental of physical disorder when

he committed his crime, but medical tests showed his two front brain lobes were atrophied."

His relatives shouted "Khaibar, Khaibar, o Jews, Mohammad's army will return," in a reference to a conflict between Jews and Muslims at the time of the Prophet Mohammad, then congratulated one another when the sentence was read.

"I cannot say how happy I am," Mostafa told Reuters.

Mostafa was arrested shortly after the attack on a desert road 18 km from the Red Sea port of Eilat. He was said to have been stationed at a nearby border point.

The Israeli army said the assailant killed three army truck drivers and seriously wounded another soldier in separate ambushes.

He then sprayed more than 50 bullets from an AK-47 assault rifle into a bus carrying soldiers and civilian workers, killing the driver and wounding 24 passengers.

The sentence is subject to review by the 3rd army's judge advocate general.

Arafat: No surrender of weapons in Lebanon

ALGIERS (R) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat said Saturday that Palestinians in Lebanon should be allowed to keep their weapons despite government moves to disarm militias.

"We are ready to accept the Lebanese government's decision to extend its authority over the whole of Lebanon," he said after talks with Algerian President Chadli Benjedid.

But Mr. Arafat said armed Palestinians were part of "the Palestinian liberation army and not a militia. They should be allowed to keep weapons" in the framework of an understanding that guarantees the security of (Palestinian) camps," he said.

Algeria, Saudi Arabia and Morocco form a committee which drafted a plan approved by Lebanese parliamentarians to end the country's civil war.

The plan calls for the central government to establish its authority over the whole country,



IFTAR: His Majesty King Hussein Saturday hosted an iftar for directors of the press institutions, the Jordan Press Association (JPA) president and a number of journalists. The iftar was attended by Royal Court Chief Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, the King's political advisor Adnan Abu Odeh, Chief Chamberlain Prince Raed Ben Zeid, several royal family members and Information Minister Ibrahim Izzeddine (Photo by Yousef Al Allan).

Israeli troops kill 2 Palestinian teenagers

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — Israeli troops shot and killed two Palestinian teenagers during overnight clashes in the occupied West Bank, security sources and Palestinians said Saturday.

Palestinians said Mohammad Yousef Al Haroub, 16, was shot in the head, neck and chest during a clash between stone-throwing students and soldiers in the southern town of Dura.

Israeli military sources said Haroub was shot from close range after he tried to stab a soldier with a knife.

Israeli and Palestinian sources said guards from a military prison near Nablus opened fire on stone-throwers at the nearby Faras Palestinian refugee camp Friday night, killing Mahmoud Moham-

mad Ilyan, 14.

Palestinians said the death sparked protests by refugees who destroyed a four metres high fence which the army had erected around the camp to stop attacks against Israeli traffic.

Military sources confirmed a Palestinian was shot during the clashes, but could not confirm if he was dead because he was not brought to hospital.

The deaths raised to 783 the number of Palestinians killed by Israeli security forces and civilians since the start of the 39-month-old intifada.

Soldiers also shot and wounded two Palestinian teenagers during clashes in the occupied Gaza Strip town of Rafah on Saturday, Palestinians said. They said one

of the youths was shot in the head and was in critical condition in hospital.

Palestinians in the Gaza Strip and in some West Bank areas staged a general strike Saturday called by the Muslim fundamentalist Islamic Jihad organisation.

The strike marked the monthly anniversary of the death of four Islamic Jihad members, killed by Israeli forces in the Gaza Strip two months before the start of the uprising.

In Arab Jerusalem, paramilitary border police clamped a curfew on the Wadi Joz neighbourhood after Palestinian residents blocked a street with rocks and debris and stoned police who came to clear it, police said.

Baker begins fresh mission

Combined agency dispatches

U.S. SECRETARY OF STATE James Baker was to embark Saturday on his second Middle East peace quest since the Gulf war, amid fierce American policy towards Iraq's Kurds.

Officials announced the trip Friday after a week in which critics at home and abroad accused President George Bush of betraying Iraqi rebels encouraged by his call to overthrow President Saddam Hussein.

Mr. Baker set out on his second journey to the Middle East within a month as commentators blasted Mr. Bush for inaction by refusing to protect Kurds.

The trip was arranged to ensure the United States does not squander in peace the victory it won over Iraq in the six-week war that touched off internal rebellion.

Mr. Baker will focus on Arab-Israeli peace efforts and also visit Kurdish refugees on the Turkish border.

In addition to sending Mr. Baker, Mr. Bush launched a massive emergency relief effort for war victims that will include U.S. aid drops of food, blankets, clothing and other supplies to Kurdish refugees in northern Iraq.

He also said he would order up to \$10 million in new relief aid, besides \$35 million already provided for war victims.

Mr. Bush acted on a day in which columnists of the New York Times criticised him for inaction.

On leaving Washington on Saturday afternoon, Mr. Baker was to go to Houston to meet Bush, then leave for Ankara to meet Turkish President Turgut Ozal Sunday.

He will visit a refugee camp on Monday, then fly to occupied Jerusalem for talks with Israeli leaders Tuesday. He is due in Cairo on Wednesday, Damascus on Thursday and Geneva on Friday.

Italy: Europe should not be left out of peace process

ROME (AP) — Italy's foreign minister complained Saturday that Europe was being left out of proposed plans for a Middle East peace conference.

Minister Gianni De Michelis said that many people were suggesting that a Middle East peace conference follow the format of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe.

"This type of approach justifies and makes central the presence of Europe," Mr. De Michelis told a news conference.

He noted that proposed plans for the peace conference envisioned the presence of the United States and the Soviet Union.

Mr. De Michelis said the exclusion of Europe was "absolutely unacceptable." He said he would raise the point Monday at a European Community mini-summit in Luxembourg.

"We obviously don't have anything against the presence of the United States, as I said, or that of the Soviet Union," he commented. "But the idea that Europe could be represented at the beginning of the '90s by the Soviet Union, and that's all, seems contradictory with reality."

Mr. De Michelis said he saw a true "window of opportunity" to achieve peace between Israelis and Arabs after the Gulf war.

He added that both the United Nations and the countries in the anti-Iraq coalition should have major roles in the peace process in the Middle East.

The trip is designed to keep open what U.S. officials acknowledge is a finite "window of opportunity" to take advantage of post-war political changes to seek progress on Arab-Israeli peace.

Since Mr. Baker returned from his first post-war Middle East mission last month, there have been few public signs the administration was pursuing this window with any vigour.

National Security Adviser Brent Scowcroft made a secret visit to the region recently, but little is known of the outcome.

State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler, referring to the Arab-Israeli crisis, said Mr. Baker's goal was to "see if we can bring the parties closer together."

Israeli stand

The Baker visit reignited a traditional political dispute in

Baghdad cabinet slightly reshuffled

Combined agency dispatches

IRAQI PRESIDENT Saddam Hussein Saturday shuffled his government for the second time in as many weeks, and named one of his most trusted relatives as defence minister.

The Iraqi News Agency (INA) said Brigadier General Hussein Kamel was one of three new appointments to a cabinet announced last month.

Gen. Kamel's previous posts, minister of industry and military industrialisation and acting oil minister, will be taken over by his long-time deputy, Lt.-Gen. Amir Ham-moudi Al Sadi.

INA said the former defence minister, Gen. Sadeh Tuma Abbas, was named President Saddam's special advisor on military affairs. Gen. Abbas, a hero of the 1980-88 Iran-Iraq war, was appointed defence minister last December.

The Iraqi agency did not say why the latest shuffle was made.

President Saddam appointed a new government March 23, naming long-time associate Saadoun Hammadi as prime minister. That largely symbolic post had been held by President Saddam himself since he took power in 1979.

Dr. Hammadi is a member of the Shiite Muslim sect and the shuffle was seen as an attempt to mollify Shiites, whose dissatisfaction had led to a widespread rebellion in southern Iraq.

Most of the ruling elite belongs to the rival Sunni branch of Islam.

But President Saddam retained hardliners in key positions, including Gen. Kamel and Gen. Ali Hassan Al Majid, another cousin who was appointed interior minister before the March 23 shuffle.

He also named another key lieutenant and member of the ruling Revolutionary Command Council, Izzat Ibrahim, as deputy commander-in-chief, a new post. President Saddam remains commander-in-chief.

President Saddam has promised political reforms in an apparent effort to defuse the rebellions.

INA said President Saddam, who is the supreme commander of the armed forces, signed four presidential decrees Saturday.

Under one of them Gen. Kamel, was promoted from the rank of colonel to full general as head of the defence ministry.

He was replaced as minister of industry and military industrialisation by Gen. Saadi, who will also take the portfolio as acting oil minister.

Gen. Kamel's name has been frequently mentioned in leading the crackdown on the rebellions in the north and south following the Gulf war that ended with a provisional ceasefire on Feb. 28.

Gen. Kamel oversaw the development of Iraq's ambitious military programme, particularly long-range missiles and chemical and biological weapons.

He oversaw the largely clandestine network of companies around the world through which Iraq sidestepped Western efforts to block it from receiving advanced military technology.

He is married to President Saddam's eldest daughter, Raghad, and also heads President Saddam's personal security apparatus, a post he is expected to retain. He began his political career as one of President Saddam's bodyguards.

Like many in President Saddam's inner circle, Gen. Kamel comes from President Saddam's hometown of Tikrit, north of Baghdad.

Ali Hassan Al Majid, the 49-year-old interior minister, is Gen. Kamel's brother.

(Continued on page 5)

New U.N. Mideast envoy hopes for progress in 6 months

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies) — The U.N. secretary-general's new special representative for the Middle East, Edouard Brunner, said Friday if there was no visible progress towards resolving the Arab-Israeli conflict in the next six months it would be "a bad surprise."

Many countries both inside and outside the region had plans for dealing with the problem, which would have to be studied to determine which could be reconciled and might lead to a settlement, he told a news conference. "Something visible must happen in the next six months — I still don't know what, how or by whom, but something must happen to show that there is progress in this important domain," said Mr. Brunner, who is Switzerland's ambassador to Washington.

If there were no signs of progress, he added, "I think it will be — I wouldn't say the end of the world. But it will be a bad surprise if, after all the efforts that we will be making and all the efforts that some major powers are making, nothing happens."

Mr. Brunner, whose appointment was announced on March

21, succeeds Gunnar Jarring, a Swedish diplomat who held the post from 1967 until his recent retirement at the age of 83, although his mission had been largely dormant since the early 1970s.

Mr. Brunner said he was beginning his task by conferring with Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar and with representatives of the members of the Security Council.

He would later visit the capitals of permanent members of the council but would not travel to the Middle East until next month, most probably with the secretary-general. He gave no itinerary.

Mr. Brunner's mandate, like that of Mr. Jarring, is based on Resolution 242, adopted after the 1967 war. It sets out "land-for-peace" formula under which Israel is to withdraw from territories occupied during the conflict in return for acknowledgment of the right of every state in the region to live in peace within secure and recognised boundaries.

Asked why he expected to be more active than Mr. Jarring in view of the present Israeli government's rejection of "land-for-peace," he replied: "Nothing

makes me think that I will be more active except hope."

"Before giving an assessment of my possible activities, I think I have to hear from all the principal actors in the region what they really think," he added.

He declined to give his views on the possibility of a Mideast peace conference, or a regional security conference to pave the way for a larger political meeting.

He said he had not met with Israeli officials, the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) or officials of Arab states in the region as yet. He declined to say whether he was empowered to speak to the PLO.

He said that prospects for peace had improved because of cooperation between the United States and the Soviet Union and among all five permanent council members.

Mr. Brunner recently met Secretary of State James Baker to discuss U.S. ideas for a Mideast settlement.

Mr. Baker was to travel Saturday to Turkey, Israel and Egypt to deal with a rising tide of Kurdish refugees from Iraq and a slowdown in the U.S. driver for peace talks.

'Big three' may join U.N. force in Gulf

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies) — The United States, the Soviet Union and France may contribute military officers to a U.N. observer group at the Iraq-Kuwait border, Western diplomats said Friday.

China's position was not known, but a Chinese military presence was considered unlikely, diplomats said. British diplomats could not be reached for comment, but British participation was considered a possibility if other powers joined.

The participation of the "big five" permanent members of the Security Council in U.N. peacekeeping operations has been rare. They have been ruled previously out because they were not considered neutral, having often had strategic interests.

Western diplomats, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the five discussed U.N. peacekeeping on Thursday with Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, who will deliver a formal recommendation to the Security Council Saturday on creating a new U.N. observer force on the Iraq-Kuwait border. Monitoring of the border is one condition of a Gulf ceasefire resolution the council passed this week.

Iraq's U.N. representative said Thursday he had received no word yet whether Baghdad accepted the resolution, and he did not expect a reply soon.

Ambassador Abdul Amir Al Anbari told reporters Security Council President Paul Hain of Belgium had asked him whether he had received a response from his government to the resolution.

"I explained to him that, first, there's a difference of time between Baghdad and New York — right now it's nine hours," Mr. Anbari said.

"Secondly the resolution, regardless of its merit, is a very complicated and detailed one. Thirdly, tomorrow will be Friday, which is a holiday in Iraq. So I don't expect an early response from my government, either way," he said.

A formal Gulf ceasefire will replace the current month-old cessation of hostilities if Iraq accepts all provisions of the resolution, which calls for the destruction of all its chemical and biological weapons, as well as ballistic missiles with a range greater than 150 kilometres.

Iraq must also agree to channel a percentage of its oil revenues into a fund to meet damage claims arising from its invasion and occupation of Kuwait.

The United Nations, which will have to organise and carry out or oversee many of these operations, announced Thursday the establishment of a nine-member group of top U.N. officials to supervise implementation of the resolution.

It comprises seven under-secretaries general and two assistant-secretaries general, including secretary general Mr. Perez de Cuellar's chief of cabinet, Virendra Dayal.

A Muslim group that rebelled against the Iraqi government condemned the United Nations Friday for ordering Baghdad but not Israel to scrap weapons of mass destruction.

The Islamic Dawa Party said the terms for a permanent Gulf ceasefire passed by the Security Council "carried more injustice to Iraq's people, future generations and national sovereignty."

Dawa, a party of Shiite fundamentalists, took part in unsuccessful post-war rebellions in towns and cities of southern Iraq.

"Singing out Iraq by this resolution, whatever the reasons, is rejected because of the grave dangers that will result for the security and sovereignty of Iraq and the region and because it creates strategic disequilibrium favouring Israel," it said.

Text of U.N. resolution on Iraqi rebellion

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Following is the text of Security Council Resolution 688 on the plight of refugees in Iraq.

The Security Council. Mindful of its duties and its responsibilities under the charter of the United Nations for the maintenance of international peace and security.

Recalling Article 2, Paragraph 7 of the Charter of the United Nations.

Gravely concerned by the repression of the Iraqi civilian population in many parts of Iraq, including most recently in Kurdish populated areas which led to a massive flow of refugees towards and across international frontiers and to cross border incursions, which threaten international peace and security in the region.

Deeply disturbed by the magnitude of the human suffering involved.

Taking note of the letters sent by the representatives of Turkey and France to the United Nations dated 2 April 1991 and 4 April 1991, respectively. (S/22435 and S/22442).

Taking note also of the letters sent by the permanent representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations dated 3 and 4 April 1991, respectively (S/22436 and S/22447).

Reaffirming the commitment of all member states to the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of Iraq and of all states in the area.

Bearing in mind the secretary-general's report of 20 March 1991 (S/22366).

1. Condemns the repression of the Iraqi civilian population in many parts of Iraq, including

most recently in Kurdish populated areas, the consequences of which threaten international peace and security in the region;

2. Demands that Iraq, as a contribution to removing the threat to international peace and security in the region, immediately end this repression and expressing the hope in the same context that an open dialogue will take place to ensure that the human and political rights of all Iraqi citizens are respected;

3. Insists that Iraq allow immediate access by international humanitarian organisations to all those in need of assistance in all parts of Iraq and to make available all necessary facilities for their operations;

4. Requests the secretary-general to pursue this humanitarian efforts in Iraq and to report forthwith, if appropriate

on the basis of a further mission to the region, on the plight of the Iraqi civilian population, and in particular the Kurdish population, suffering from the repression in all its forms inflicted by the Iraqi authorities;

5. Requests further the secretary-general to use all the resources at his disposal, including those of the relevant United Nations agencies, to address urgently the critical needs of the refugees and displaced Iraqi population;

6. Appeals to all member states and to all humanitarian organisations to contribute to these humanitarian relief efforts;

7. Demands that Iraq cooperate with the secretary-general to these ends;

8. Decides to remain seized of the matter.

U.S. court rules against Iraq in furnace case

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Iraqi government is guilty of deceiving a New Jersey company to skirt U.S. export restrictions and acquire industrial furnaces for its war machine, a federal judge decided.

U.S. District Judge Stanley Sporkin ruled Friday that Consarc Corporation is entitled to \$64.1 million in its fraud and breach of contract lawsuit against the Iraqi Ministry of Industry and Minerals.

Judge Sporkin ruled that the firm was entitled to recover \$9.1 million, which covers the three unsold furnaces, plus another \$55 million in punitive damages — five times the original \$11-million contract price.

Mr. Sporkin agreed with the Ranocacs, New Jersey, firm that the Iraqis used "fraud and deceit" to purchase four custom-made high-temperature furnaces — a contention backed by the U.S. Defence Department.

Iraq produced a certificate declaring it would use the furnaces to produce artificial limbs for victims from its war with Iran. However, a June 1990 tip that the furnaces were headed for the same military-industrial complex outside Baghdad led U.S. defence officials to determine they would be used to produce nuclear weapons and lightweight titanium parts for extending the range of Iraqi missiles.

Consarc, the nation's largest producer of specialty furnaces for the automobile, aerospace and aircraft industries, also chartered its lawsuit that by invading Kuwait, Iraq prevented shipment of the furnaces and breached its contract.

Raymond Roberts, president of Consarc, said he was prepared to turn over to the U.S. government half of any punitive damages he recovers to fund better enforcement of export laws.

Although Consarc had been stuck with all four furnaces, it sold one in February to Mitsubishi Materials Ltd. in Japan for \$1.7 million. A second is sitting in a crate in the United States; two others are at a Consarc subsidiary in Scotland.

As outlined by company officials at the hearing, the sale of metal-moulding furnaces that began in 1988 with blessing of the U.S. Commerce Department came to an abrupt end on the Philadelphia docks just days before Iraq invaded Kuwait on Aug. 2, 1990.

Palestinian conference scheduled in Montreal

OTTAWA (AP) — A U.N. conference on the Palestinian-Israeli conflict is being planned for Montreal in June, senior government officials said.

It will be the first time U.N.-affiliated groups concerned about Palestinian rights have held a conference away from U.N. headquarters in New York.

Canadian groups working for the rights of Palestinians promoted Montreal as the site to reinforce Canada's support for U.N. resolutions on the Palestinian questions.

The officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said they expect Canada early next week to agree to hold the conference on June 28, 29 and 30.

About 300 delegates from trade unions, churches, peace groups and humanitarian organisations will discuss ways the United Nations can protect Palestinians in the Israeli-occupied territories.

They will also discuss how the world body can best promote a negotiated settlement between Israelis and Palestinians.

Nasser Al Kidweh, representa-

tive of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) to the United Nations, is expected to attend. PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat and other PLO officials from the Middle East are not expected at the conference.

Prime Minister Brian Mulroney said recently the PLO leadership has "zero credibility" because of its support for Iraq during the Gulf war. But Canada has also insisted the right of Palestinians to choose their own representatives.

Most delegates to the conference support the establishment of a Palestinian state.

Among the speakers will be Hannan Ashrawi, a prominent Palestinian educator, Michail Warshanski, an Israeli journalist, will also speak. He was jailed in Israel for eight months for publishing a pamphlet on how to resist under torture during interrogation.

Workshop themes include the plight of Palestinian children in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, problems of Palestinian prisoners and the rights of Palestinian women.

Kuwaiti pilot wants Gulf states to unite air forces

KUWAIT (R) — A senior Kuwaiti pilot urged the emirate's Gulf Arab allies Friday to unite their air forces and said he expected the West to provide them with modern weapons denied to Arab states in the past.

Lieutenant-Colonel Mohammad Mubarak, the only Kuwaiti pilot captured by the Iraqis in the Gulf war, told a news conference it was "only natural" for the West to provide the six Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states with modern weapons and help them upgrade their defences.

Saudi Arabia, the largest GCC state and the world's biggest oil exporter, turned to Britain for Tornado warplanes and China for CSS-2 medium-range missiles in deals worth more than \$20 billion in the late 1980s after the U.S. Congress turned down its requests for advanced American weaponry.

Col. Mubarak said that since the Gulf war, "certainly things have changed." Asked if he expected Congress would now allow the sale of sophisticated weapons to GCC states, he said: "naturally."

"Also many of the foreign forces will leave some of their weapons in the region" after their eventual withdrawal, said Col. Mubarak, whose A-4 aircraft was

shot down on Jan. 17, the first day of the war.

He was released by Iraq March 5.

The pilot said the Gulf war had proved that the GCC states — Bahrain, Qatar, Oman and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) as well as Kuwait and Saudi Arabia — could not go to war on their own.

"We must link all air forces in the Gulf together and (jointly) buy weapons which will benefit us all," he said. The six states should also hold regular exercises under the supervision of foreign experts and train better commanding officers.

Col. Mubarak's statements in reply to questions were among the strongest made in public by a Kuwaiti officer on the post-war defence requirements of the GCC, an economic and military pact.

The GCC states agreed in Damascus last month with Syria and Egypt to form an Arab peacekeeping force after the eventual withdrawal of Western forces from the region.

Col. Mubarak said a \$1.9 billion deal signed with the United States in 1988 for the replacement of Kuwait's 36 A-4 warplanes with 40 F/A-188 was proceeding on schedule.

Kuwaiti military releases prisoner list

KUWAIT CITY (AP) — Kuwait's military has released a list of 547 prisoners but acknowledges that as many as 400 more could be held in ad hoc prisons manned by vigilantes, resistance cells or rogue elements of Kuwait's army, a U.S. army civil affairs commander said Friday.

Under intense pressure from the United States, the army has also agreed to move the prisoners, housed in a building meant for 75 people, to a bigger jail, said Colonel Ron Smith, commander of the Kuwait task force under the 352nd civil affairs command.

Col. Smith said U.S. requests to allow defence lawyers and family members to visit the detainees have yet to be acted on.

Col. Smith's announcement was the first official confirmation that the military is holding hundreds of prisoners, suspected of collaborating with the Iraqi army during its seven-month occupation of Kuwait. He quoted military officials as saying as many as 400 other people were being held in schools, jails and private houses.

Middle East Watch, a New York-based human rights group, said last month that Kuwait was holding 2,000 prisoners but that some were being

released. Most of the prisoners are believed to be Palestinians, suspected of collaborating with Iraq's army. Western diplomats say many of the prisoners are being held illegally and that the army does not have sufficient proof to try them.

A prosecutor with the Ministry of Justice, Awad Al Essa, acknowledged Thursday that his ministry had urged the military to release some men because they lacked evidence. Mr. Essa said the military has handed information about 100 detainees over to prosecutors who are preparing cases against the prisoners.

The crimes involved are murder, burglary, rape and other violent offences, he said. Trials could begin in late April, but like many things in Kuwait are subject to delay, he said.

Col. Smith said Kuwait's army also agreed to transfer responsibility for the detainees to the Ministry of Justice, another key U.S. demand.

"This could further limit abuses, we hope," Col. Smith said, "because prisoners will be out of the hands of untrained soldiers."

Most of Kuwait's soldiers on the street have a week's training,

he said. Soon after Feb. 27, gangs of armed Kuwaiti men roamed the city, picking up Palestinians and sometimes killing them.

He said that since mid-March, after intensive U.S. pressure on the Kuwait government to stop such abuses, "it appears that the beatings are slowing down."

"But after I leave they could turn right around and do whatever they want," said Col. Smith, a reservist from Stafford, Virginia, who is a former prosecutor and now a lawyer for the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Col. Smith and most of his command, which is the American unit that works closest with Kuwait's police, is set to leave next week.

The list, which was given to American forces on Tuesday, included 10-12 Iraqi soldiers, the colonel said.

Kuwait, as a member of the coalition forces, should not be holding Iraqi soldiers prisoner. Under a coalition agreement, Saudi Arabia is supposed to keep custody of captured Iraqi soldiers.

Col. Smith said the Kuwait army had assured him that the Iraqis had been sent to Saudi Arabia, but he had no confirma-

tion. The colonel said the Kuwaiti list had not been provided to the public. Every day at police stations throughout Kuwait, women search for husbands, sons and brothers but get little help from Kuwaiti security forces.

Palestinians now rely on the Americans for information about their relatives, Col. Smith said. "I can urge, I can cajole, I can tell them (the Kuwaitis) to open up, but if they don't follow my advice that's their problem," he said.

Col. Smith said he was allowed to visit the military jail housing the 547 men and found it to be "extremely crowded."

"There was sitting room only," he said.

He said Kuwaiti officials assured him the men were getting food, water and exercise and were not getting beaten.

He said he did not talk to any prisoners.

The International Committee of the Red Cross began to visit the prisoners, following its mandate under the Geneva convention, on March 23, according to Walter Stocker, head of the ICRC's delegation to Kuwait.

He refused to provide details of the prisoners' treatment.

U.S. speeds up its troop redeployments

RIYADH (AP) — The United States is speeding up its troop withdrawals from the Gulf region. Two more American paratroopers died in a helicopter crash Friday.

Military sources said advance elements of two major headquarters, General H. Norman Schwarzkopf's central command and the army central command, were planning to leave by the end of the month.

Gen. Schwarzkopf would go back to the central command's headquarters in Tampa, Florida, leaving behind a deputy, Lt. Gen. William G. Pagonis, a supply expert, to oversee the return of equipment. The army central command would return to Fort McPherson, Georgia, where it is designated the Third Army.

The Tiger Brigade of 3,000 army troops began preparing for the return to Fort Hood, Texas, to rejoin the First Cavalry Division, military sources said. The sources said the army alone was moving out more than 3,000 troops a day.

"We have a plan that calls for deploying greater numbers in the future," one source said.

More than 175,000 American troops have been redeployed and about 365,000 remain. That's more than 30 per cent of the 540,000 who were in the Gulf at peak strength.

The command gave this breakdown by service of troops withdrawn: Army 58,000; air force

32,500; navy 42,500; marines 42,000.

But as long as troops are still in the theatre, the after-effects of war and the occupation of southern Iraq still exact a toll.

Two crew members were killed Friday when a U.S. army CH-53C Kiowa scout helicopter crashed while on a reconnaissance mission over southern Iraq. Military officials were investigating the cause of the crash but they ruled out Iraqi fire.

Names of the two crew members were withheld pending notification of relatives. They were operating out of the VII Corps. About 100,000 U.S. troops from the VII Corps remain in southern Iraq awaiting Baghdad response to a United Nations resolution calling for a ceasefire and a U.N. peacekeeping force to replace the Americans.

Earlier this week, two soldiers from the Third Armoured Division were killed by cluster bombs littering the battlefields.

U.S. non-combat deaths now almost match the number of Americans killed in action in the Gulf war. U.S. figures show 113 non-combat deaths compared with 141 Americans killed in action.

Gen. Colin Powell, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said Thursday it could take more than a month to withdraw all U.S. ground troops from southern Iraq once Baghdad agrees to the ceasefire terms and the U.N. peacekeeping force is brought in.

'Silent majority' of Pakistan backed Gulf front — envoy

WASHINGTON (AP) — Pakistan's "silent majority" backed the U.S.-led coalition in the Gulf war, despite many popular demonstrations favouring Iraq, says the country's ambassador to Washington.

Ambassador Najmuddin Sheikh also acknowledged that the bulk of Western aid to Afghan guerrillas based in Pakistan was no longer going to the fundamentalist group headed by Gulbaddin Hekmatyar, who during the Gulf conflict denounced the U.S.-led coalition against Iraq. The guerrillas seek to oust the communist government in Kabul.

Mr. Sheikh spoke in a Thursday night speech to the Asia Society, a private group which promotes good relations between the United States and Asian nations.

Mr. Sheikh also sought to explain reported pro-Iraqi statements in January by General Mirza Aslam Beg, the Pakistan army chief.

Gen. Beg was quoted as saying that despite the presence of 10,000 Pakistani soldiers in Saudi Arabia, Pakistan was neutral and people regarded Iraqi President Saddam Hussein as a defender of the Muslim cause and target of an "American-Zionist conspiracy."

The ambassador said Gen. Beg was in a private exchange with senior officers that was not meant "to emerge in the press."

Mr. Sheikh said Pakistani support of Saudi Arabia and Kuwait was a logical, pragmatic policy for Pakistan, which as a country sur-

rounded by powerful neighbours, would sympathise with the "victim of aggression."

The pro-Iraq demonstrations, he asserted, were the work of "vocal minorities" with help from Iraqi diplomats in Pakistan. Another factor, he said, was the contradiction of the international community supporting the cause of Kuwait based on "high moral principles" which were not, however, applied to causes of the Palestinians or the Kashmiri separatists in India.

Once Iraq faced the massed military might of the U.S.-led coalition, it got some Pakistani support because it was an underdog, the ambassador added.

Suggesting continued rough relations with the United States, Mr. Sheikh said Washington should avoid poisoning overall bilateral ties by "singling out" Pakistan in its campaign against the spread of atomic weapons.

While the two countries try to work out disagreements about Pakistan's nuclear programme, there are other issues on which they can cooperate, he said.

President George Bush in September withheld the annual certification that Pakistan does not possess a nuclear explosive device, triggering suspension of aid to Pakistan, as required by U.S. law.

He said the cutoff cost Pakistan \$576 million in assistance but the two countries continue to discuss the issue. Since last year, neither had indicated much prospect of a settlement.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

PRAYER TIMES

05:53 Fajr
06:13 (Sunrise) Dhuha
11:38 Dhuhr
15:12 'Asr
18:03 Maghrib
19:22 'Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swedish Tel. 510740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terrasanta Church Tel. 622360
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541
Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel.

628543.
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331.
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261.
Syrian Orthodox Church Tel. 771751.
Armenian International Church Tel. 683326.
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295.
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815187, 654932.

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.
Another rise in temperatures will take place and winds will be southerly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Min./max. temp.
Amman 10 / 21
Aqaba 17 / 30
Desert 8 / 24
Jordan Valley 15 / 28
Yesterday's high temperatures:
Amman 18, Aqaba 27. Humidity readings:
Amman 59 per cent, Aqaba 28 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY
AMMAN:
Dr. Tayseer Saadi 777636
Dr. Abdul Wahab Awad 846070
Dr. George Sabouni 776751
Dr. Isam Hawwash 624830
Firas pharmacy 661912

Perdows pharmacy 776336
Al Asena pharmacy 637053
Nayroula pharmacy 636762
Al Salam pharmacy 636760
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shmeisani pharmacy 657660
IBRID:
Dr. Lutfi Yassin (—)
Al Sharara pharmacy 278282
ZARQA:
Dr. Musa Taha Odeh (—)
Khalefah pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate Rescues 630341

Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192, 661111, 637777
Fire Brigade 891228
Blood Bank 775121
Traffic Police 843402
Public Security Department 865290
Hotel Complaints 605800
Police Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 897467
Amman Municipality 787111
Complaints (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone 843045
Repairs 623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 690100

Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Azzay, Maria 891611/15
Queen Abla Hospital 6224050
Amal Hospital 674133
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital (09)991

Japanese agency to open office in Amman

AMMAN (J.T.) — Minister of Planning Khaled Amin Abdullah said Saturday that the Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA) would soon open a regional office in Amman to serve Jordan and other Arab countries.

The ministers told the Jordan Times that JICA would provide experts, technical aid and scholarships benefiting the Arab World and Jordan.

The minister said, he discussed with the resident representative of the Japanese agency, Toshi Mirakawa the agency's operations which, among other things, will provide equipment and other in-kind assistance to the Kingdom.

Dr. Abdullah said that the agency's operations constituted one of the various topics he had discussed with the Japanese government officials during his trip to Japan, in addition to the direct financial and technical assistance to Jordan to help the country overcome part of the adverse

effects of the Gulf war.

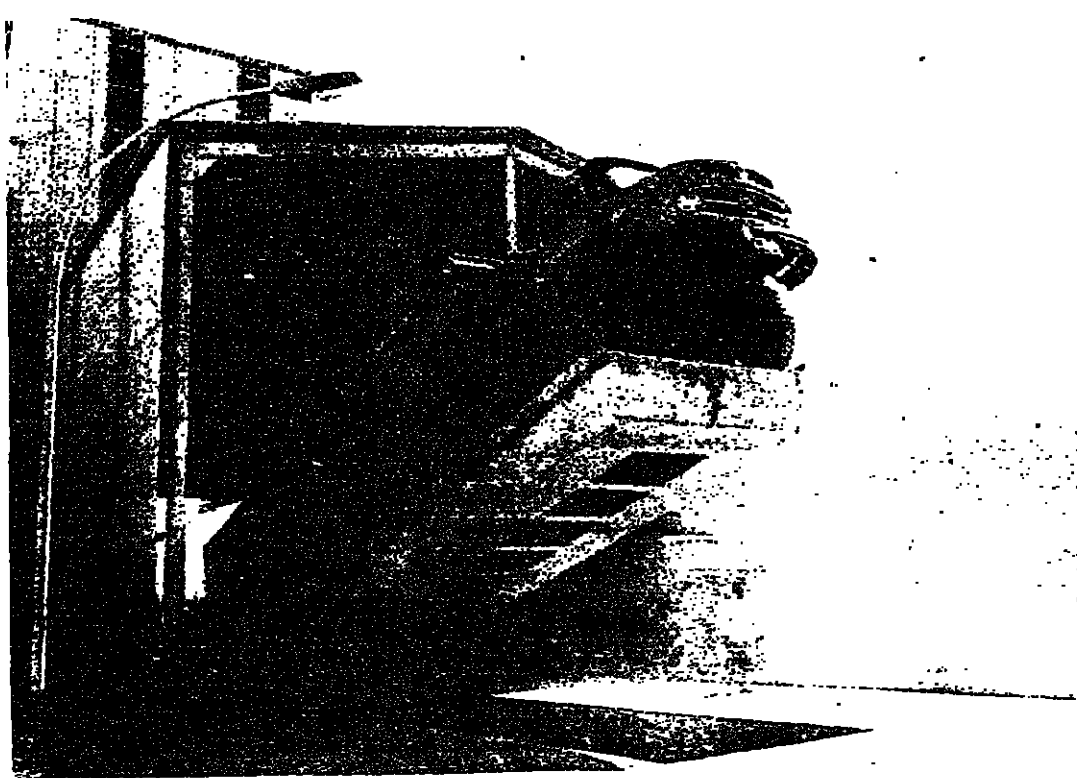
In another development, Dr. Abdullah Saturday discussed with China's Ambassador here Zhang Liang the agenda of a joint Jordanian-Chinese committee meeting which will convene in Amman later this month.

The agenda contains numerous topics, including Chinese-Jordanian trade links, according to Ministry of Planning sources.

They said that Jordan's phosphate exports to China and bilateral cooperation between the two countries in technical cooperation were also reviewed.

According to the ministry sources, ways for adjusting the Chinese-Jordanian trade balance, which is now in favour of China and means of benefitting from China's \$10 million loan to Jordan, will be discussed at the coming meeting, expected in the last third of this month.

The joint committee groups representatives of the private and public sectors in China and Jordan.



Discharging phosphate from trucks on tipping platform of Aqaba Port (file photo)

Company complains of negative effects of law on its performance

AMMAN (J.T.) — The 1990 annual report of the Jordan Phosphate Mines Company (JPMC) focuses attention on the danger of heavy losses that are inflicted on the company by the application of the axial weights law which took effect at the start of 1991.

According to the report the law reduces by half the total capacity of phosphate carried by trucks from the mines, located mainly in southern Jordan, to the port city of Aqaba for export.

"The transportation of phosphate is directly affected by the law because it is mostly done by trucks which can only take on 28 tonnes each, down from 50 tonnes before the application of the law, said the report.

The extra cost of hiring more trucks to carry the phosphate, together with the 300 tons a tonne increase which was recently introduced on transporting the phosphate by rail, is bound to deal with a heavy blow to JPMC's operations, which is detrimental to the country's economy, said the statement.

JPMC last year reported a decline in its sales and profits, largely due to the Gulf crisis. The annual report said that JPMC 1990 sales amounted to JD 232.5 million, down from JD 247.8

million in 1989.

If the present law continues to be enforced, the company is bound to suffer further decline in profits, according to the report.

The company's managing Director Wasef Azar was quoted as saying that the Kingdom does not have sufficient numbers of trucks to carry the phosphate and that Hittieh-Aqaba railway is not in a position to provide transportation facilities to bridge the gap.

"The JPMC used to benefit from the trucks, that used to head for Aqaba to bring goods, by loading them with phosphate to the port city, but the trucks, owners are now shunning phosphate and less trucks are available to take the phosphate to the port," Mr. Azar said.

The axial law was introduced for two purposes, according to the Ministry of Public Works: to reduce the damages caused to the roads by the heavy loads of trucks, and to give chance to work to many other trucks lying idle due to lack of transportation operations with Iraq and the Gulf.

In January, when the axial weights law went into effect, the workers and truck owners involved in the phosphate trans-

portation operations sent cables of protest to the government urging a cancellation of the law which, they said, was bound to cause extra operational cost, which, in turn, would have adverse consequences on the national economy.

Most of the phosphate is being mined at the Shideh Abiad and Hassa mines in southern Jordan.

In view of the shortage of means of transportation, to carry of phosphate, the JPMC fears that it would not be able to honour its commitments and export the required quantities of phosphate.

Mr. Azar earlier sent a memorandum to Prime Minister Mudar Badran pointing out the difficulties the new law has been causing to the company which is the major foreign currency earner for the Kingdom.

He said in his memorandum that trucks carrying phosphate to Aqaba should be exempted from the law.

According to the JPMC annual report, the Gulf crisis increased the negative performance of the company due to the harassment of vessels at Aqaba by the U.S. and other allied naval ships and also due to the surcharge insurance cost

Islamic Investment House ordered liquidated

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) has ordered the liquidation of the Islamic Investment House after an intense four-year effort to salvage the tottering institution, banking sources said Saturday.

"It is too early to determine the bankruptcy value of the bank, but the total amount lost could not be less than JD 5 to JD 6 million," said one of the sources.

The government took over the Islamic Investment House, which was established in 1981 in line with the then prevailing trend to adopt Islamic principles in banking, after finding the financial situation of the institution in trouble and what an economic analyst described as the dubious nature of its dealings.

A management committee was appointed, with Leith Shbeilat as chairman, to supervise the affairs of the institution, and then, in line with the recommendation of the committee, the central bank created a new entity, the National Islamic Bank, to take control of the affairs of the Islamic Investment House and put it back on track. In addition, the Central Bank also pumped in about JD 4 million to stabilise the troubled affairs of the investment house. It was expected last year that the National Islamic Bank would formally start functioning in early 1991, a banking official said.

However, it became apparent earlier this year that efforts of the National Islamic Bank — whose

major shareholders were the Jordan Engineers Association, the Orphans' Fund and another leading Jordanian commercial bank — were unsuccessful, and hence the CBJ order to liquidate the original institution as well as the National Islamic Bank.

"The problem was much bigger than originally thought, and unless the National Islamic Bank was ready to underwrite a heavy loss there was no way the Islamic Investment House could be salvaged," said a banker.

The losses of the shareholders of the National Islamic Bank could be counted "in a few hundred thousand dinars" — mainly operative expenses — but the depositors and shareholders of the Islamic Investment House stand to lose perhaps as much as 50 per cent of their investment, a prominent economist told the Jordan Times.

Central Bank officials were not immediately available for comment on the situation. But banking officials confirmed that the Central Bank had appointed a liquidation committee to supervise the winding up of the Islamic Investment House.

According to the annual report of the Amman Financial Market, the Islamic Investment House had a paid-up capital of JD 3.853 million — 74.38 per cent owned by individuals, 21.95 per cent by companies and 3.635 by public institutions — as of Jan. 31, 1985. No figures are available since then.

The report indicates that the market value of the JD 1 share of the Islamic Investment House de-

clined to JD 0.640 in 1986 from JD 1.050 in 1985, JD 1.160 in 1984, JD 1.340 in 1983 and JD 1.430 in 1982.

Total deposits at the bank stood at JD 11.67 million at the end of 1985, up from JD 6.613 million in 1984, JD 3.204 million in 1983 and 729.971 in 1982. But net profits plunged to JD 83,216 in 1985 from JD 588,678 in 1984, JD 631,535 in 1983 and JD 403,511 in 1982. No dividend was paid in 1985.

Total liabilities were put at JD 17.966 million, but only less than 25 per cent of it in shareholders' equity — JD 4.214 million. This in itself is seen as the key to the massive losses the institution suffered as a result of what banking circles describe as gross mismanagement.

Simultaneous with the takeover of the Islamic Investment House in 1986, legal proceedings were also launched against some of its senior officials. Some of them were found guilty of embezzlement and sentenced to serve terms in jail.

"There were gross misappropriations of funds, embezzlement and violations of banking practices and regulations," said a senior banking executive familiar with the case.

"Some of the officials were found to have accepted deposits without interest, in line with the Islamic tradition, only to relend the money on interest for personal gains," said the executive. "But then that is only the tip of the iceberg."

ICRC expresses deep concern over health situation in Iraq

AMMAN (J.T.) — Workers employed by the Jordan Phosphate Mines Company (JPMC), at the mines of Ruseifeh and Shideh, Saturday dispatched the fifth convoy of trucks with relief supplies to Iraq.

A spokesman for the workers' trade union said that the trucks were carrying food supplies, milk, cooking oil and a power generator.

He said that a team, representing the union, led by Mr. Khaled Shriem accompanies the convoy to hold contacts with trade unions and officials in Baghdad and other cities. The team is to assess other needs of the Iraqi people like technicians and skilled workers, so that some of them can be recruited and sent over to Baghdad to help out in the reconstruction process.

Meanwhile, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) announced Saturday that it had arranged for its 12th convoy to leave Amman for Baghdad Sunday, carrying 41 tonnes of sanitation materials, 20 tonnes of diesel fuel and 5 tonnes of gasoline.

An ICRC statement said that 11 ICRC personnel, including four Austrian Red Cross volunteers, would go to the Iraqi capital as well.

ICRC's 10th convoy which left Saturday, carried further amounts of food supplies and medicine.

So far, ICRC has sent 11 convoys of trucks since March 3, with 195 vehicles. They delivered 2,072 tonnes of food, wheat flour, rice, lentils, tinned fish and cheese, sugar, tea, baby food, and salt in addition to 286 tonnes of fuel, 112 tonnes of medical supplies, 215 tonnes of sanitation and relief materials like tents, blankets.

"Altogether 2,700 tonnes have been sent from Amman, the statement added."

It said that the World Food Programme (WFP) had donated some 1,700 tonnes of food, but the rest of the goods and equipment were donated by various Red Cross and Red Crescent societies around the world.

It also said that the Moroccan Red Crescent Society had sent 94 medical personnel to work in Iraqi hospitals.

According to the ICRC statement, more than 50 ICRC expatriates are now working in Iraq, including ICRC delegates, physicians, sanitation engineers, pharmacists, logisticians, administrators, together with a large number of local employees who have been engaged to do various types of work.

Libyan trade team tours Zarqa

ZARQA (J.T.) — A visiting Libyan trade and economic team Saturday visited Zarqa and met with the president and members of the board of the city's chamber of trade to discuss trade issues.

The team, led by Saleh Al Sheikhli, met with chamber President Ibrahim Takiuddin who briefed the team members on industries within the Zarqa Governorate.

He said that there are 1,122 industrial businesses in Zarqa and said they would be willing to cooperate in trade exchange with Libya.

The team, which is spending several days in Jordan, has had meetings with officials at the Ministry of Industry and Trade and the Amman chambers of industry and commerce to discuss bilateral trade.

The Amman office of the ICRC has meanwhile received a statement from the Geneva headquarters expressing grave concern over the effects of the Gulf conflict on civilian population.

Following is the text of the statement:

While political efforts to achieve a lasting ceasefire in the Middle East continue, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) notes with deep concern the worsening plight of civilians throughout Iraq.

In the south, where the ICRC has opened a sub-delegation at Basra, there are clear warning signs of a public health catastrophe of immense proportions due to the drastic shortage of safe drinking water. ICRC delegates report that the incidence of diarrhoea among children has dramatically increased, often resulting in death within a few hours.

The risk of epidemics increases daily as temperatures rise, and beyond the work already accomplished by the ICRC in purifying water in Baghdad and other cities far greater means must be mobilised urgently by the international community in order to prevent the situation developing into a long-term disaster.

In northern Iraq the internal conflict that has developed in the past few weeks brought added hardship to the civilian population. The ICRC, on the basis of its mandate and of the Geneva Conventions, is sending a team of delegates to the north to assess the situation and to look into the fate of prisoners captured in the area. Meanwhile, the ICRC is taking steps to provide impartial assistance as quickly as possible to those in need.

In view of the pressing need for action, the ICRC calls upon all the authorities concerned to permit the free flow of humanitarian aid and to adopt measures regarding the victims that are compatible with established norms of humanitarian behaviour.

Local firm wins housing contract

AMMAN (J.T.) — A local firm Saturday won a contract from the Urban Development Department (UDD) to build a site for a housing estate which will be set up on 98 dunums plot of land totalling 39,600 square metres in area.

In accordance with the agreement, signed by UDD acting Director General Yusef Hiyasat and the firm's managing director, the project entails laying a road network totalling 13,345 square metres in area and a water network of 1,800 metres in length.

The estate will be set up in the course of the UDD's third urban development scheme which aims at building homes for limited income people who have not so far benefited from other housing schemes in the country.

Mr. Hiyasat said that the estate, for which the infrastructure will be finished in May 1992, was to be set up in Hamman region, within the boundaries of the Greater Amman area.

Mr. Hiyasat said that the local firm would also build a sewerage network of 2,000 metres in length and a canal of 190 metres in length, to drain away rain water as well as retaining walls and create green areas within the site.

In addition, Mr. Hiyasat said, the local firm will prepare the civil works for telephone and electricity networks. The firm will also set up a building to serve as a vocational training centre for women, consisting of two storeys with a total area of 260 square metres, set up on a plot of land 800 square metres in area.

The UDD has been complementing the work of the Housing Corporation in Jordan to create new homes and housing estates for limited income groups.

According to statistical figures released by the Housing Corporation over the past few years, Jordan is in need of 18,000 housing units each year, for several years to come, largely due to the growth of population which now stands at four per cent annually. Translated into figures this is almost 120,000 people, statistics say.

According to economists, the devaluation of the dinar, which has been estimated at 40 per cent since 1988, has encouraged Jordanian expatriates to buy houses and lands.

U.N. envoy's report on Iraq depicts bleak situation

By Serene Halasa
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Under-secretary-general of the United Nations, Martti Ahtisaari, was scheduled to present the first international appeal for urgent humanitarian aid to Iraq in the aftermath of the Gulf war on Thursday and Friday, according to United Nations children's fund (UNICEF) sources in Jordan.

Mr. Ahtisaari, special envoy of Secretary General of the United Nations Perez de Cuellar, visited both Iraq and Kuwait. In his report, that was submitted to Mr. de Cuellar, Mr. Ahtisaari described the situation of the war-torn country after inspecting all walks of life there.

"The Iraqi authorities were fully

cooperative in regard to the activities of five specialist groups. These dealt with food and agriculture, water, sanitation, health, transportation, and communications, energy and refugees and other vulnerable groups," Ahtisaari's report read.

In his report Ahtisaari also wrote: "Iraq has, for some time to come, been relegated to a pre-industrial age, but with all the disabilities of post-industrial dependency on an intensive use of energy and technology."

The under-secretary also described the deteriorating health conditions in Iraq and warned of the widespread of epidemics. He also cited the large number of diarrhoea-infected children who were eventually dying because of

drinking polluted water and not having a proper diet.

In the report Mr. Ahtisaari also presented a set of recommendations regarding water, sanitation and health conditions in Iraq. These recommendations include allowing chemicals necessary to purify drinking water into Iraq, and using fuel in order to start up generators used for pumping water.

"As for sanitation needs, these include fuel and spare parts for garbage collection trucks as well as insecticides, fuel and spare parts for the sewage disposal system," the report also read.

The report called for urgent medical support including vaccines, and stressed the need for fuel to operate generators and communications systems.

Minister visits Balqa governorate

SALT (Petra) — Minister of Tourism and Antiquities Daoud Khalaf visited Saturday Al Balqa Governorate where he met with Balqa Governor Faleh Al Gharaibeh.

Mr. Khalaf and Mr. Gharaibeh discussed the touristic and archaeological situation in the governorate and issues related to renovating archaeological sites and developing the tourism sector in the governorate.

The minister also visited Al

Salt city in the governorate and met with its Mayor Abdul Razzaq Ensour, director general of the Antiquities Department, and Al Salt Antiquities Department director, in the presence of Mr. Gharaibeh.

Mr. Khalaf discussed with the officials issues of interest to the tourism sector in the governorate and ways to coordinate efforts between the ministry and the governorate, on the one hand, Al Salt city and Balqa Antiquities

Department on the other in renovating Tougna archaeological building which will be converted into an archaeological gallery.

The minister then toured Jalad region and visited its ancient mosque which was restored and renovated by the ministry.

He also visited the antiquities and tourism offices in the governorate and the traditional handicrafts developing centre, the Antiquities Museum and the Cultural Centre in Al Salt city.

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By Dr. Fahed Al Fanek

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The first rule

THE NOMINATION of Dr. Esmat Abdul Meguid, the Egyptian foreign minister, to the post of the Arab League's secretary general is not exactly the best present that Egypt could give to boost joint Arab action in the post Gulf war era. With due respect to the honourable gentleman's credentials and abilities, his nomination to the post symbolises more the old Arab ways of doing things than the new outlook that our leaders should have in order to open a new page in our political history. Gone should be the days when an Arab League that is based in Cairo should draw a secretary general who is also Egyptian. The world has changed about us. The European presidency rotates among the members periodically, and the smallest of member nations in the EC get a chance to assume a responsibility similar to that of all the bigger states. Luxembourg, tiny as it is, is now president of the European Community, which includes powers as big as France, Britain and Germany. And everybody seems to be happy with the arrangement, probably also because the commissioner does not always have to be French.

In the post Gulf war Arab World, there should be an attempt to change our old ways which have brought us to where we are today. Just because Egypt is the biggest Arab country does not mean that the Arab League has to be based in Cairo; and if this is the case today, its secretary general does not have to be Egyptian like in days past.

We are confronted with new challenges that can only be faced by a fresh approach based on the new facts of life that we have. These facts call for building an Arab order, more solid and more honest and more lasting than the old one. We cannot afford to bury our heads in the sand and wish our problems away. The old Arab order failed to address common Arab action in its purest and most productive forms. It has led us to disunity and catastrophe. We cannot therefore go back to it without proper assessment and thorough evaluation of where we went wrong and why.

While this latter process will have to be carried out patiently and meticulously, we should not go about it by indulging in the same old methods that we employed before. The substance as well as the form have got to change.

Jordan, leadership and people, have never been against Arab consensus and accord, even in our darkest hours. But in light of what happened, there are lessons to be learned.

Let us start with the Arab League: its structure, institutions and even procedures. They deserve to be looked upon with examining eye and critical approach. Nothing should be taken for granted. Antiquated, unworkable ways ought to be thrown out.

The task ahead of us is colossal. Putting our house in order takes precedence over everything else. Big should not dictate to small just because of its size. Rich should not bully poor because of its wealth. This should be the first rule.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'I Arabic daily Saturday described the Security Council as an authority totally separate from the U.N. General Assembly, and a forum held under the total influence of the United States which exploits the U.N. Charter to fulfil the ambitious aims of the world powers regardless of the interests of the other nations of the world. The paper said that the world community in general and the Security Council in particular keep silent about the atrocities and the criminal actions committed by the Israeli authorities in the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Rafah, a city in the Gaza Strip has lately witnessed violent clashes between the Israeli troops and the Palestinian people rising against occupation, with the result that many of the defenceless people were killed or wounded, the paper noted. It said as the resistance continues, counter Israeli measures are being taken like deportation of Palestinians, mass arrests and demolition of homes, while the world community is keeping silent and watching the crimes being committed. The paper said that the Security Council being absolutely a tool in the hands of the United States, is not lifting a finger to bring justice to the Palestinians and to save them from the atrocities. These developments and the general situation at the United Nations proves that there is no credibility at all in United States statements in which it has been bragging about its intentions of achieving peace and security in the region, the paper noted. Any talk about peace in the Middle East, said the paper, can have no meaning at all unless oppression against the Palestinians stops.

A columnist in Sawt Al Shaab daily calls for a national conference to discuss the question of unemployment which, he says is causing real threat to society. Dr. Ahmad Al Khatib notes that despite all measures taken so far there are 45,000 unemployed registered with the Civil Service Commission (CSC) and this is a very high figure for a small country like Jordan. I believe that the problem of unemployment in Jordan is partly due to lack of proper management and organisation, and the absence of a data bank which can gather information in detail about skilled and unskilled manpower in the country, and can control the flow into Jordan of non-Jordanians working for the private or the public sectors alike, the writer notes. By contrast, the writer says, Gulf countries have introduced strict measures aimed at gradually replacing foreign nationals with people from the Gulf states; and they control the flow of non Gulf nationals into their countries and are very careful about employment matters. Unemployment in Jordan can be curtailed by adopting similar measures, and by operating an efficient data bank and public administration system, he argues. The writer also notes that unemployment breeds crime of all types, and the Jordanian society has lately witnessed the emergence of new, organised crime like robbery, embezzlement and assault on property. He also expresses the view that an unemployed person is exposed to all temptations, including crime.

Sunday's Economic Pulse

Resolution 687: Unfair and contradictory

IF ARABS needed yet another evidence to convince them that Gulf War II was actually an American war waged against Iraq on the account of Israel, America provided that extra evidence in the form of the ugly and unfair conditions, imposed by the fourteenth "American" resolution, rubber stamped by the United Nations Security Council on April 3. The resolution made report in its length and complexity. Its contents contradicted the most basic principles of the sovereignty of member states in the United Nations.

If the real objective of Gulf War II were the liberation of Kuwait from Iraqi occupation, why should Iraq give up its strategic weapons, which ironically were not used in the occupation of Kuwait, but were used earlier for the protection of Kuwait and other Gulf states from the Iranian threat? The absence of Iraqi strategic weapons is a service to Israel and a disservice to the security and stability of the area. A weak Iraq is an invitation to chaos in the whole area when Israel, Iran and Turkey will attempt to undermine Arab national security and territorial integrity.

Resolution 687 came in full contradiction with Resolution 660 which called for resolving the disputes between Iraq and Kuwait through peaceful negotiations within the framework of Arab League. It contradicts Resolution 661 which imposed economic

sanctions until Iraq unconditionally withdrew from Kuwait and not until Iraq gave up its weapons that could reach Israel: weapons that every country in the world is entitled to produce, buy and deploy, and which are actually acquired and deployed by Israel, Iran, Turkey, Syria and Saudi Arabia. It contradicts the very charter of the United Nations which vested the authority of resolving border disputes with the International Court of Justice. It contradicts the principle of independence enjoyed by courts of justice around the world when it ordered member countries to prevent Iraq from the right to sue foreign companies that failed to perform under contracts. The Security Council thus appointed itself as a protector of Western contractors who did not only fail to execute contracts but also refused to refund advance payments received on account of those contracts.

The ugliest and most unfair part of Resolution 687 was its insistence on a unilateral disarmament of Iraq, while leaving other regional powers, especially Israel, to enjoy superiority despite its defiance to Security Council resolutions 242 and 338, a witness of the Western double standard and hypocrisy.

Other conditions contained in two ugly resolutions will not stand the test of time. Official ceasefire and American withdrawal will take place upon the acceptance of Iraq of the resolution, and

evidence that the acceptance was under duress just like signing a contract at gunpoint. Such acceptance is null and void by any legal standard. It is no better than a contract made with a terrorist to convince him to release a hostage. It is in Kuwait's best interest, in the longer term, to obtain borders that are imposed by the sheer power of American tanks. The legitimacy of such borders will be tied to the presence of those tanks.

The imposition of reparations on Iraq is ridiculous to say the least. Not only because Iraq is entitled to compensation for the destruction of its social and economic infrastructure that have nothing to do with the military effort, but also because such reparations will not be payable until after the needs of the Iraqi people and Iraqi economy are satisfied as first priority, and after the huge external debts of Iraq are serviced as a second priority. Under this criteria, even debts have no chance of being serviced, let alone reparations which will be deferred indefinitely, when the current abnormal circumstances are altered.

Gulf War II made history as an American war to destroy an Arab country for the benefit of Israel. The American occupation of southern Iraq and the ugly and unfair resolution of the United Nations Security Council will be dealt with by historians under international terrorism.

The war against a civilisation

By Abdul Rahman Munif

THIS is the worst possible start for a world order that people would like to regard as new. The war in the Gulf was aimed not so much at liberating Kuwait or implementing the U.N. resolutions as at reshaping the Middle East first and the rest of the world afterwards. In this, the number of losers will be enormous. We will see further deterioration in relations between the rich states of the North and the poor ones of the South and, at a later stage, between the economically rich blocs themselves.

The New World Order that ordinary people seek is one free from the fear of weapons and wars, an order based on cooperation, mutual exchange, and equality. Its fundamental basis would be democracy, the safeguarding of human rights, and protection from pollution epidemics, and everything that threatens humanity, now or in the future. That is the New World Order people seek, but does its progress so far suggest that we are on the right track?

When the Arabs fought alongside the Allies in the first world war they were fighting against an Ottoman Empire which had many things in common with the Arabs, such as religion. They had been driven to war in order to resist the injustice that the Ottomans had inflicted upon them, and to attain their freedom. But hardly had the war stopped than the Arabs became the first of the Allies' victims, betrayed by all the promises the Allies had given them before and during the war. For a long time afterwards the Arabs remained indignant and resentful, and unrest prevailed in most parts of the region.

In the second world war it was the same story, apart from slight differences in the names of the characters who betrayed their promises and deceived the Arabs. Since the Middle East acquired its special importance, thanks to the existence of oil, it has become the focus of competition to dominate the oil wealth, to control prices and production levels, and to control relations with other countries. As a result, most of the oil-producing countries have implicitly lost their identity. Relations between countries should not be based merely on fine words, promises, or dreams; they should be based primarily on a balance of power, mutual interest, and cooperation that benefits both parties. Isolation is impossible, at least in the present age. Any new discovery, any breakthrough, should not be confined to certain individuals but should, at the same time, benefit others: it has to be internationalised.

By the same token, Middle East oil should be used for helping mankind; that is why we call for its internationalisation. The question here is how far the West has contributed towards making this internationalisation possible, and how far it has impeded it. From the 1970s to the present day the desire to determine the production levels and prices of oil has become one of the most important reasons for creating a state of chaos and unrest in the Middle East. Aside from the fluctuations in prices and production, this commodity has become a means of bargaining and exerting pressure at more than one level. Indeed, the irrational method adopted to channel oil revenues has led to the gap between the rich and poor Arabs, which itself has led to unstable and explosive relations. Moreover, arms purchases in large quantities have led to economic distortions and political corruption.

The West, particularly the United States, is far from innocent in its support for the corrupt and

undeveloped rulers and in ignoring people's wishes and justified aspirations. Its aim has been to create trouble spots in which it can sell and test its arms.

Arab intellectuals now see what motivates the West to resume its wars in this region. They see that its purpose is not simply confined to oil or to implementing United Nations resolutions or to defending regimes; what the West has done in the Gulf goes beyond all that in its attempts to eliminate the region's history, civilisations, cultures, and religions.

One day we will see that the attempts made to contain the recent conflict and to reach a peaceful settlement were many and serious. What precluded their success was the fact that the United States did not want a peaceful solution because that would have signalled its failure to control the situation in full and alone.

This was no different from the two world wars in terms of its results, since in addition to the great numbers of victims, it has deepened the animosity and widened the gap between the North and South. Perhaps that is due to a lack of deep understanding in terms of geography, history, and relations between cultures, civilisations, and peoples.

I am not trying to downgrade the power and importance of the United States, but we must remember that America, despite its power and supremacy, lacks the historical perspective and linguistic individuality which, perhaps, only the old nations possess; it also lacks the historical and geographical ties that link people together.

America is trying in many ways to revive the history of the Middle Ages, as if those ages had not passed away centuries ago. This remark is more easily understood by Europeans than Americans, and it means a lot, especially in today's and tomorrow's world.

It is not possible to replace culture with mass media, civilisation with technology, or man with machine. The Gulf war has proved two things. First, that despite their power, broad spread and skill, the media cannot replace culture. Second, that in an emergency the pre-dominance of the media, coupled with censorship, may be used to hide the truth for a while, but as soon as something goes wrong in this huge machine it can be turned against those who created it.

The simplest evidence for that is bombing of the Al Amiriyah shelter in Baghdad. Despite the attempts of many people to shrug off responsibility by praising the coalition war machinery and the skill of its personnel, the whole world has witnessed the inescapable truth. Civilisation and man's spirit of determination go far beyond the machinery which man himself creates. This is something the Americans do not seem to understand or even imagine.

I am not introducing this sort of comparison to stir people up or to awaken their national pride, but just to spell out that a nation which has its own deeply rooted history, civilisation and culture, differs from a shipload of passengers who, gathered together by accident and by adventure, imagine that through their money or pomposity they can create a history of their own.

The Spanish Republicans lost the civil war but they gained civilisation and a future. One of the many reasons for their defeat was France's use of museums and monuments as a shield; the Republicans did not have the courage to storm their own history and future. That is why they preferred to withdraw, leaving behind a dictatorial barbarism celebrating victory.

During the Gulf war American aircraft carrying thousands of



Abdul Rahman Munif

tonnes of explosives destroyed civilisation in the form of monuments and historical edifices. They carried out their tasks ferociously and savagely. The oldest bridge in Baghdad, Martyrs Bridge — a one-way system, too small for two vehicles to pass at a time — was bombed. On this bridge in 1947 the protesters against the Portsmouth Agreement with Britain were martyred, among them the brother of the great Iraqi poet, Mohamamd Mahdy Al Ghouhary. Why was this bridge bombed?

One of the most important edifices in the whole region is the statue of liberty, created in 1961 by the sculptor, Guisard Salm. It is probable that this statue has been blown up or that only its base is standing. The same goes for historic monuments thousands of years old.

"The wolf needs to eat the lambs, but he also has to find reasons to justify doing so. The wolf lays down a rule saying that a lamb that drinks from the top of the spring spoils the water for the wolf. As a result, the wolf is obliged to devour that lamb."

This is no way, especially for "civilised" nations, to deal with monuments. It is hard to imagine that the bombers listed as their top priorities the brutal destruction of history, civilisation, and the dearest things to people's hearts. Perhaps I am motivated by my artistic and literary instincts in talking about war, but let us look at the other side of the coin.

The vast numbers of American forces engaged in the Gulf did not represent that nation's desire to maintain world order so much as to maintain a grip on the region's oil. Oil comes top of its list of interests. America imports oil not just to keep its economy going like other countries, but because to America: profits, and an attempt to control people's futures.

Now we come to another question about the New World Order: who is going to control the energy resources, and who is going to be

in the strongest position to compete for them? The New World Order means economic competition between big blocs. These blocs, as it seems now, are North America, Western Europe, Japan, some eastern Asian countries, and the Soviet Union. Oil will be one of the important elements in the competition among them because Japan, for instance, imports all its needs while Europe imports the greater part.

The United States controls — through its companies and its relations with the oil-producing countries — most of the world's oil. By withholding the oil revenues in the form of deposits and shares, or through arms sales, especially to the oil producing countries, the United States strengthens its economic position and its competitiveness. It is now

acterised by harmful competition between big blocs, a world divided into North (which possesses most of the power, experience, technical expertise) and South (whose debts and problems increase daily) would not have the potential to carry on its economic cycle. Nor would it provide stability and cooperation, let alone satisfy people's aspirations and desires to achieve liberty and equality at all levels.

What most Westerners fail to appreciate is that people of the Third World countries, i.e., the South, have a legitimate right to live, and to have their own ambitions and cultures. Mistakes committed by the North are the main reason behind all the problems, animosity, and lack of confidence that the Third World experiences.

The wave of hostility prevailing in the Middle East now is a reaction to the subjugation and injustice imposed by the West. This reaction manifested itself in Iran under the Shah and is occurring now in the Arab World, especially in the oil-producing countries. Kuwait itself is not particularly important, nor is it an oasis of democracy: its importance lies in the oil wealth hidden in the desert.

This same West that is so keen on implementing United Nations resolutions and sent its troops and fleets to liberate Kuwait, has turned a deaf ear for decades to more vital causes in the area, and has done nothing to implement similar resolutions in other cases. The dictatorial regimes under which people suffer, receive all their support from the West; their rulers indulge themselves in luxury while nations suffer abject poverty and starvation. The West closes its eyes while people are stripped of their freedom, but opens its eyes wide at any sign of anti-Western feeling or any dangerous religious wave. That is why many Arabs believe their sufferings are largely the result of a conspiracy between dictatorial regimes and the West.

Academics may come with obsolete theories on oriental despotism, or the infancy of some nations, or the dominance of the emotional side over the rational side, etc., to account for what is going on in the area. Such a

European attitude, if used to distort or eliminate the other side, would preclude the possibility of dialogue or compromise.

Of course, a great number of Arab thinkers, distinguish between the West as a big power and the West as a group of nations, civilisations, and cultures. They also distinguish between Europe and America in different ways. They know that their geographical proximity to Europe makes it easier for Europeans to understand Arab people's aspirations of freedom, democracy, and equality. They also take into account the interaction of European civilisation with Arab and Islamic civilisation that contributed to the Renaissance.

The history of Europe during the past two centuries is partly the result of popular struggle to overcome such difficulties as the stubbornness of the old class system. Although many Arabs try to draw on this to build better relations, their efforts receive too little acknowledgement from the West.

Beyond its military effects, the Gulf war subjugated public opinion and threw away gains made over a long period, such as culture, freedom of thought, the right to know the truth, and the right to object or disagree. What George Orwell says in his novel, *Nineteen Eighty Four*, is not confined to one political system or a specific geographical area, or a specific piece of history. Most of what he describes — brainwashing, reshaping of people's memory, and the creation of the "ideal" person — is happening today at the international level.

The United States came to defend Saudi Arabia against the possibility of an Iraqi invasion; then it moved on to the liberation of Kuwait; next it declared its intention to destroy the Iraqi war machine; and finally to bring about the downfall of the Iraqi regime. These aims coincided with the setting out of a New World Order to reshape the area politically and geographically. All we, as people, are allowed to do is listen to the statements, then believe, agree and obey. Anyone who disagrees or disobeys will be shunned, treated with suspicion, condemned, and punished accordingly.

The ancient fable told in Kalila wa Dimna about the wolf and the lambs is worth repeating. The wolf needs to eat the lambs, but he also has to find reasons to justify doing so. The wolf lays down a rule saying that a lamb that drinks from the top of the spring spoils the water for the wolf. As a result, the wolf is obliged to devour that lamb.

The reasons are always there, and all we have to do is to believe in them, consent to them, and obey them. The reasons behind the recent war are not the declared ones. And the war itself may yet lead to dreadful consequences, such as the destruction of governments that were supposed to be part of the victorious alliance.

Unless the role of public opinion is restored, unless man regains his dignity, his right of access to knowledge and his right to be honest to his culture and age, he will be unable to contribute to any New World Order adopted after the cold war. And unless that happens, there is no help, no hope, here or anywhere.

Abdul Rahman Munif was born in Jordan in 1933 of Saudi Arabian parents. He was stripped of Saudi Arabian citizenship for political reasons. He now lives in Syria. He studied law in Baghdad and Cairo, and had a career in the oil industry before becoming a full-time writer. Two of his books are available in English: *Cities of Salt (Cape)* and *Endings (Quartet)*. The article is reprinted from *The Guardian*.

Ceasefire

(Continued from page 1)

Iraqi.
"The government will inevitably see to it that the overwhelming majority of Iraqis take part in decision-making," he said.

Mr. Saleh said parliament would cooperate with the new government "in preparing for the multi-party system which will ensure individual liberties and press freedom."

Soviet and Western diplomats have indicated that the United States, the Soviet Union, Britain and France were considering posting military officers to a 300-to-400-member U.N. observer group for the Iraq-Kuwait border. It would be called the U.N. Iraq-Kuwait Observer Mission (UNIKOM).

China's position was not stated, but U.N. officials said they had the impression that China probably would contribute unarmed military observers.

If all five permanent members of the Security Council sent observers, it would be the first time that the "big five" participated jointly in a U.N. peacekeeping operation.

Soviet Ambassador Yuri Vorontsov confirmed that his nation has offered to send unarmed military observers to monitor the Iraq-Kuwait border, not "Soviet troops."

But Iraqi Ambassador Abdul Amir Al Anbari told Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar that his government would not accept observers from the U.S.-led Gulf war coalition on the Iraq side of the border, U.N. officials said.

Mr. Anbari said his country "has no problems with deployment of a U.N. observers force along the border, but we will not accept participation of any country which is a member of the so-called coalition led by the United States."

An Arab peacekeeping group on the border has been ruled out because of objections from Kuwait, which wants the five powers to get involved.

The United States, the Soviet Union, France and China contribute officers to the 291-member U.N. Truce Supervision Organisation which has monitored the ceasefire in Palestine since 1948.

Rebellion

(Continued from page 1)

and security, and a humanitarian concern, not just an internal matter.

"It is not the role or the intention of the Security Council to interfere in the internal affairs of another country," said U.S. Ambassador Thomas Pickering.

"However, it is the legitimate responsibility of the Security Council to respond to Turkey and to the Islamic Republic of Iran's concerns," he added.

Turkey and Iran said close to a million refugees wanted to enter their respective countries, thereby presenting a threat to peace and security in the Middle East.

"There is no way to justify what is going on in northern Iraq as an internal affair of that country," Turkish Ambassador Mustafa Aksin told the council. "Turkey will not allow its border provinces to be overwhelmed by such a flood of displaced persons."

The council's action was prompted by reports that hundreds of thousands of Kurds in northern Iraq and Shiites in the south were fleeing to Iran and Turkey after the failure of rebellions against the government.

Iraq's ambassador, Abdul Amir Al Anbari, hours before the vote invited a U.N. mission to investigate the state of affairs in the north, saying the resolution should have been postponed until such a group filed a report.

He asked how the council could suddenly be concerned about Iraqi citizens when it had sanctioned carpet bombing and supported a trade embargo that deprived civilians of "all the amenities to ensure the return to natural life in the country."

Iraq's official Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) said more than 250,000 refugees had already fled across its borders from Kurdish territories and that more than one million more might eventually cross.

"Hungry and in shabby clothes, 100,000 Kurds driven away from their ancestral lands... have formed a 20-kilometre queue in the freezing weather" approaching Sanandaj, across the border from Sulaimaniyah.

Iraq's Interior Minister Abol-rahman Nuri said on Tehran Radio Saturday that many refugees were killed by gunfire or minefields, drowned trying to swim the swollen Siron river on the border or died of hunger.

Government forces have smashed the rebellion by Shiites in southern Iraq and have driven Kurdish guerrillas out of northern cities into the hills.

By Diana Hinds

BELIEF in God was not a subject Sir Nevill Mott, the Nobel prize-winning physicist, had ever seriously considered until, at the age of 50, he was invited to give a talk on the relationship between science and religion.

Religion had played virtually no part in his upbringing. His parents, both educated as physicists, were married in a Unitarian church, but later lost interest in organised religion and he was neither baptised nor taken to church. Only at his boarding school, where attendance at chapel was compulsory, did he acquire a nodding familiarity with the prayer book service.

In the course of preparing his talk — part of a series devised by Canon Mervyn Stockwood at the University Church in Cambridge — Sir Nevill came to the conclusion that the subject would repay further attention. Drawing a careful distinction between scientific truths, based on experiment, and religious truths, about which "there would never be full agreement," he began to feel that at least some religious truths might have a meaning for him. "A religious truth," he has written, "is a statement or doctrine ... about which everyone should meditate and try to find if it has meaning for him or her."

Now 85, thin and stooping, but still mentally vigorous, he has become a regular attendee at his local church and was baptised and confirmed as an Anglican five years ago. But his religious beliefs are nothing if not eclectic: a lifetime in physics has left him with serious misgivings about certain aspects of the Christian faith, which he explains in his contribution to *Can Scientists Believe?*, a book of essays he compiled.

Sir Nevill still spends at least one day a week in his office at the Cavendish Physics Laboratory in Cambridge, which he headed from 1954 until his official retirement in 1971. Since 1933, his main field of research has been the application of quantum mechanics to metals and semiconductors and in 1977 he won the Nobel prize for his study of non-crystalline solids. Now his interest is in superconductors. During the week he puzzles over his own theory of how they work, offering ideas to his younger colleagues at the laboratory — "most of them don't agree with me" — and on Sundays he sits through the Creed, unperturbed by his inability wholly to believe it.

Miracles are his major stumbling block. He holds fast to the belief that the laws of physics and chemistry cannot be overturned — that water cannot be converted into wine, that bodies cannot be removed from tombs and restored to life.

"I cannot believe in the kind of miracles God does to show off," he explains. "I must believe, if God is omnipotent, that He could do could do these things if He wanted to, but I cannot worship or respect a God who would want to."

On the subject of the Resurrection, he is much in sympathy with the Bishop of Durham, the Right Rev David Jenkins, who has described the story of Christ's bodily resurrection as "a conjuring trick with bones," and the two have recently compared notes. As for the Virgin Birth, Sir Nevill finds the idea disgusting. "It

seems like an insult to the way we produce our children. It's perfectly negative: If I really believed in that, I would be very depressed."

This view of miracles is not shared by other scientists who accept Christianity. Professor John Polkinghorne, a theoretical physicist, argues, for instance,

that the problem is not whether God performs miracles, but why he does not perform them more often — "instead of so frequently letting events, such as earthquakes and plagues, take their disastrous course."

Sir Nevill's answer is simply that "God is not that kind of being." God, he says, is not omniscient, because of the role that chance plays in the Universe, and is probably not omnipotent, but a "loving God of here and now, with whom one can seek some communion."

Isaac Newton's famous formulation of the laws of mechanics and universal gravitation led his successors to envisage a deterministic universe working by its own clockwork, where God's role was simply to set the planets in motion and then watch. But atomic research in the Twenties, enshrined in the German physicist Werner Heisenberg's "uncertainty principle," found that the laws governing a single atom's disintegration were unpredictable.

On this principle — that there is an element of chance in the workings of the universe — Sir Nevill and others base their firm belief in free will. The need for a God arises, Sir Nevill maintains, from the gap between science and the "mystery" of human consciousness. "I believe that neither physical science nor psychology can ever 'explain' human consciousness ... To me human consciousness lies outside science, and it is here that I seek the relationship between God and man."

He firmly rejects the "God of the gaps" approach to religion, which attributes the gaps in scientific knowledge to the mysterious workings of God, but acknowledges that his position lands him with a "God of one gap" — a gap between science and human consciousness that he believes can never be closed. Here, Sir Nevill confesses, he is likely to incur the ridicule of many molecular biologists, who believe there is no "gap" and that science will ultimately find a complete explanation for the workings of the brain.

His approach begs important scientific questions for those who, like him, accept evolutionary theory: did man's capacity for self-consciousness originate with the earliest form of life, and if not, when and how did it occur? Could there have been some "discontinuity" in the evolutionary process, resulting in a major qualitative change to produce human consciousness?

Sir Nevill is not convinced by either hypothesis; he agrees it is a "serious problem," but is not unduly worried at not having an answer. He holds resolutely to his belief that the brain is not a supercomputer: "Physics is never going to produce a system which could predict what we were going to do, because as soon as we learn its predictions we can do the opposite."

That, he says, is a typical quantum physics argument, but he is equally fond of quoting Dr. Johnson in support of his case: "Sir, we know the will is free, and there's and end on't!"

Ultimately, perhaps, Sir Nevill is a man content not to ask too many questions. Science and religion for him are not in conflict and, unlike some of the Roman Catholic contributors to his book, he does not attempt to bring the two together in a comprehensive world view.

The prospect of being a Roman Catholic does not appeal to him at all. "I do not want a church — I like that of Rome — which tells you closely what you ought to believe. I do not see how that kind of authority can exist on earth."

At the small church he attends in Aspley Guise, outside Cambridge, where he lives with his wife Ruth, the vicar has capitalised on having an eminent doubting scientist in his congregation, calling on Sir Nevill to give occasional "sermons" to reassure other worshippers. "I know it is a relief to some of our parishioners that a scientist believes that it is possible, and may even be right, to worship in church without accepting everything," Sir Nevill says.

But his vicar is leaving the parish, and with an evangelical-leaning Archbishop now installed at Canterbury, Sir Nevill is a little apprehensive about the future. It is terribly important, he believes, that people who seek a "Christianity without miracles" should continue to be accepted in the Anglican church. "I just hope the new Archbishop isn't going to change things too much," he says — *The Guardian*.

A scientific sort of God



Sir Nevill Mott

that the problem is not whether God performs miracles, but why he does not perform them more often — "instead of so frequently letting events, such as earthquakes and plagues, take their disastrous course."

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Britons queue for lucrative Gulf contracts

By Caroline Allen
Reuters

LONDON — Undeterred by powder-keg conditions in the aftermath of the Gulf war, Britons are queuing to escape a dismal job market at home for a sunny expatriate life in the Middle East.

As the shock of the war wears off and TV bulletins and newspapers no longer present a daily diet of blitzed cities and desert war, memories of the good times are flooding back. British managers and skilled workers are once more hankering after six-figure tax-free incomes and unlimited sunshine by the sea.

London is a major springboard for their recruitment. Firms say their books are crammed with candidates determined to get back to the Gulf — but they warn that the good-time contracts may be a thing of the past.

"For the time being Kuwait is on hold, but we had posts to fill in January further down the Gulf, and I can tell you there was no shortage of applicants," said Edward Simpson, director of Cooper and Lybrand Deloitte Executive Resourcing.

Western firms whose governments bore the brunt of the war to liberate Kuwait are demanding lucrative contracts as a reward.

Although Kuwait has said it plans to reduce the number of foreign workers to half the pre-war level, the move appears aimed mostly at Palestinians, Jordanians and Yemenis.

"Reconstruction is a growth industry," said one British executive, determined to beat off competition for tenders from French, German and even U.S. firms.

But the next wave of expatriates might find a new attitude among their hosts. A generation ago, developing countries lacked skilled nationals to fill top jobs and the means to train them.

In the Gulf states, awash with petrodollars from the 1970s, the main concern was how best to enjoy their wealth.

"Third World nationals came as labourers, first world expatriates as management," recalled a

construction manager. But now Arab nations, like former colonies, are beginning to question whether they still want to pay up and delegate.

Of the 2.2 million people in Kuwait before Iraq's invasion, 30 per cent were Kuwaitis. Apart from the relatively small community of highly paid expatriates from the developed world, the rest were other Arab nationals or workers from developing countries such as the Philippines and Sri Lanka.

Days after he returned home, Planning Minister Sulaiman Mutawa said Kuwait had to reassess its reliance on foreign labour. "There has to be a change of attitude if we are to go ahead," he said. "There can be no going back to the Kuwait of August 2 — fat and flabby and relying on the state."

Developing countries are sometimes bitter about the cost of expatriates. "They are very experienced, yes, and usually on offer to the highest bidder, 'home' is an offshore bank account," said a former African diplomat who declined to be named.

Tax-free salaries and bonuses are a shining lure. "Remember how no-one could understand why all those expatriates wouldn't leave Kuwait after the invasion?" said one personnel manager.

"It wasn't because they didn't know what was happening. They were going to lose thousands (of pounds) in tax benefits."

But British Chancellor Norman Lamont's March 20 budget promised Gulf "refugees" assistance with taxes due.

Susan Gregory, who assessed 80 international companies for a survey of policies and practices for U.K. expatriates last year, says mercenary tendencies are over-played: "If they really don't want to go, the pay won't get them there," she said.

Personnel companies think the Gulf war will change the terms of international contracts worldwide.

Baker

(Continued from page 1)

approval. Mr. Sharon himself clarified through a spokesman Saturday that "the government of Israel is not building immigrant housing in (the West Bank) and Gaza, and is not settling immigrants in these areas."

But, "construction in (the West Bank) and Gaza has taken place in the past, is taking place at present and will be carried out in the future in accordance with government policy and guidelines," he said.

The government, led by Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir,

opposes the U.S. "land for peace" formula and says that the Palestinians should be content with the Israeli offer of limited autonomy.

Officials in Mr. Shamir's office do not expect the settlement issue to be a focal point of Mr. Baker's current visit, Israel Radio said. They also say U.S. pressure on Israel would not be helpful.

Mr. Baker "surely knows that Israel cannot be pressured. What we need is coordination and understanding. The prime minister has proved that he knows how to defend Israel's stand," Mr. Shamir's aide Avi Pazner told the radio.

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Maradona banned for 15 months

MILAN (R) — Argentina's Diego Maradona was banned from soccer for 15 months Saturday for having taken cocaine before a league match last month.

The Italian League's disciplinary committee rejected demands for more tests and ruled the ban would be effective immediately.

Soccer's international governing body FIFA has said the ban threatens to end the playing career of the 30-year-old Maradona, who led Napoli to two first division titles including a league and cup double in 1987 and the UEFA Cup.

Committee chairman Francesco d'Alessio said Maradona had not been given the maximum two-year ban because it was not clear the drug had been taken to enhance his ability to play soccer.

The former Argentine captain

can now take his case to the league's Federal Appeals Commission which is the final arbiter.

Maradona, who had tested positive for cocaine after a home game against Bari on March 17, flew to Buenos Aires early Tuesday morning, declaring he was finished with soccer and saying he wanted to enjoy the good life.

At Saturday's hearing, Maradona's lawyers denied the player had taken cocaine and claimed suspicious traces found in a routine urine sample were too weak to be properly identified or used in evidence.

They demanded more tests but d'Alessio said he had been satisfied with those carried out.

"The use of cocaine is forbidden," he said. "The strength of the concentration makes no difference."

Paolo Siniscalchi, a member of

the defence team, told reporters he was disappointed at the ban, which lasts until June 30, 1992.

"It's very heavy when you consider Peruzzi and Carnevale only got a year," he said.

Last October Roma players Andrea Carnevale and Angelo Peruzzi tested positive for the Amphetamine Fentermine and were banned for 12 months.

D'Alessio told reporters Napoli had been absolved because Maradona's increasingly wayward behaviour had made it impossible to blame the club for the player's actions.

Maradona had been "in open conflict with the club both on and off the field," he said.

Over the past year he has incurred fines totalling about \$50,000, mostly for missing matches and training.

The immediate future for

Maradona, at his peak the world's most gifted player, look bleak.

He is still under investigation in Italy for alleged links with a vice ring, he has a paternity suit hanging over his head and Napoli are suing him for damaging the club's image.

His contract with them had been due to end in 1993.

Italy's sporting press has mixed condemnation of the affair with regrets over the fall of an idol.

The Gazzetta Dello Sport commented Saturday: "Maradona was well aware of the sporting and moral risks he was running. He has condemned himself as a player and as a man."

"He has squandered the rich gifts nature bestowed on him — the fantasy, the ability and that magic appeal which seduced both the crowds and the girls."



Jana Novotna

Zvereva upsets Novotna at Hilton Head tournament

HILTON HEAD, South Carolina (R) — Natalia Zvereva upset

fourth-seeded Czechoslovak Jana Novotna and Soviet compatriot Leila Meskhi had top seed Martina Navratilova on the brink of defeat when rain halted quarter-final play at the \$500,000 Family Circle Cup Tennis Tournament.

The 15th-ranked Zvereva, seeded eighth, surprised herself by controlling the baseline duel for a 7-6 6-4 win over the sixth-ranked Novotna.

"I was glad to get a win against a top player," said the inconsistent 19-year-old Soviet. "You never know what to expect from me. Sometimes I can be really lazy and sometimes it amazes me how I can play, which is not often."

In other quarter-final play, second seed Gabriela Sabatini continued to dominate opponents. The fourth-ranked Argentine crushed seventh seed Helena Sukova of Czechoslovakia 6-0 6-1

in just 45 minutes.

Sabatini's semifinal opponent will be third seed Arantxa Sanchez Vicario of Spain, a 6-3 6-2 winner over unseeded Italian Federica Bonsignori.

But defending champion Navratilova was on the verge of being upset as the ninth-seeded Meskhi prepared to serve for the match at 5-4 of the third set when rain stopped play.

Meski, who upset sixth seed Jennifer Capriati in the previous round for her first career win over a top-10 player, will take on Zvereva in the semifinals if she can hold serve when her match with Navratilova resumes Saturday morning.

Zvereva let a 5-2 first set lead slip away when Novotna won her four successive games to lead 6-5. But Novotna failed to hold serve for the set when the Soviet hit a forehand at the fourth seed's feet on break point to force a tie-break.

Seagram denies Pitmans of National triumph

LIVERPOOL, England (R) — Seagram, a 12-1 chance ridden by

former's son Nigel Hawke, won the Grand National steeplechase at Aintree Saturday in thrilling style, denying Cheltenham Gold Cup winner Garrison Savannah in the last 200 metres.

Turning into the final straight at the end of the 4½-mile (7.2-km) course, Garrison Savannah, ridden by Mark Pitman, looked like becoming this first horse in almost 60 years to complete the Gold Cup and Grand National double.

Brilliant jumps at the final two fences carried Garrison Savannah into a six-length lead. But on the long run-in to the home, trained by Mark's mother Jenny, began to tire on the soft ground.

Seagram, with Hawke riding in his first Grand National, made ground relentlessly to win by a comfortable five lengths.

Writing for Sir Eric Parker

in "The Nation" "just stays and

stays. He's only small but he's got the heart of a lion."

Auntie Dot, a 50-1 outsider ridden by Mark Dwyer, finished in third place another eight lengths back.

After the triumph of Cheltenham, the race had a familiar ring for the Pitman family. Eighteen years ago Mark's father, Richard, now a television commentator, led over the last fence on a horse named crisp only to lose out on the run-in to Red Rum, who won the first of three successive Nationals.

"I am disappointed for Mark and for the owners," said Jenny Pitman. "We wanted to make history and we had a good crack at it."

Backers made mud-loving Bonanza Boy the 13-2 favourite, but for the third year running the gelding, ridden by champion jockey Peter Scudamore, failed to produce his best at Aintree and came fifth.

The 40-strong field was led on the first circuit by Garrison Savannah's stable companion Golden Freeze, the mount of Michael Bowby, with French challenger Okloama II. Ten of Spades, and last year's winner Mr. Frisk all prominent.

Well-backed Ritus, third in 1990, joined the leaders soon after the sixth fence, the infamous Becher's Brook, as Okloama made a mistake.

Outsider General Chandos raced with Golden Freeze turning into the straight for the first time with Ritus and jockey Neale Doughty going well in third place.

Setting out on the second circuit, Garrison Savannah joined the leaders. On the 20th of the 30 jumps, Ritus fell, Doughty's first early exit in eight Grand Nationals.

Seagram and another outsider, Over the Road, were moving up for the first time, but Mr. Frisk, unhappy on the soft surface, was pulled up after Becher's.

Golden Freeze finally dropped away with four fences left as Amite Dot mounted her challenge.

But with two fences to jump Garrison Savannah, travelling smoothly, led from Auntie Dot with Seagram in third. Durham Edition, last year's runner-up, was making late headway into fourth place.

Into the straight for the final time, Garrison Savannah took command with two fine leaps. But although Auntie Dot had no more to offer, Seagram most certainly did. Hawke, 25, conjured an inspired finish out of his partner to record the biggest win of his career.

"Early on, he wasn't enjoying it, so I had to make it cool and get his confidence," Hawke said. "When I got near the front he had a lot more daylight and he needs the daylight."

Masur reaches final of Hong Kong Open

HONG KONG (R) — Australia's Wally Masur earned himself

a trip down memory lane when he defeated crowd favourite Alex Antonitsch of Austria 4-6 7-6 (7-2) 6-3 to reach the final of the Hong Kong Open Saturday.

Masur, 27, a steady if unspectacular performer on the tour, won his first career title in Hong Kong in 1983 when he beat Sammy Giammalva.

"Today I played a good tie-break in the second set, which turned the match," said Masur, who is ranked 60th in the world.

He took the third set comfortably against the 25-year-old Austrian who endeared himself to the crowds here over the past few days with his on-court clowning.

Masur will play 19-year-old Dutchman Richard Krajicek, who outgunned South Africa's Gary Muller 6-2 6-4 to reach his first Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP) Tour final.

Muller, who ousted top seed Michael Chang of the United

States in the quarter-finals, was lethargic and succumbed tamely.

"I will play my usual serve and volley game against Wally and see what happens," Krajicek said.

"I was a little bit surprised how easy it was today — he did not serve well."

Earlier, Krajicek completed a 7-6 (8-6) 2-6 6-1 victory over Patrik Ruchman of Germany in their rain-delayed quarter-final.

Muller fired 16 aces as he beat Chang 5-7 6-3 7-6 (7-1) in a gripping quarter-final.

The unpredictable Muller showed scant respect for reputations as he served three aces in the first game.

Chang, the only seed left in the tournament, countered with some sizzling returns and delighted his growing army of Chinese fans by winning the first set.

Muller took the second set quite comfortably and then broke Chang to go ahead 6-5 in the third with his serve to come.

Sampras moves into semis at Orlando Tennis Classic

ORLANDO, Florida (R) — Second seed Pete Sampras looked sharp and fit in Friday's

6-3 6-3 victory over eighth seed David Pate that put the U.S. Open Champion into the semifinals of the \$225,000 Orlando Tennis Classic.

Sampras, who has suffered a series of injuries since becoming the youngest ever men's U.S. Open winner at 19, served bullets and volleyed with authority to earn his place in an all-American final four.

This tournament is the first event on the men's tennis circuit since the Volvo of Chicago in March, 1987 in which all eight quarter-finalists were from the United States.

Earlier Friday fourth seed Derrick Rostagno easily handled sixth seed Jimmy Arias 6-1 6-4 to reach his third semifinal of the year, where he will take on Sampras.

Top seed Andre Agassi's was leading Chuck Adams 6-4 4-4 when heavy rain halted their

match, while third-seeded defending champion Brad Gilbert never got a chance to begin his match with Malivi Washington.

Sampras said he did not know what to expect from his game since injuries had limited his playing time. But there has been no evidence of rust this week as the world number six has reached the semifinals in both singles and doubles here.

"My game's like (Boris) Becker's or Stefan's (Edberg)," said Sampras. "We have an up-and-down game because we play flashy serve-and-volley. A baseline is more consistent, while we can have great matches and poor matches."

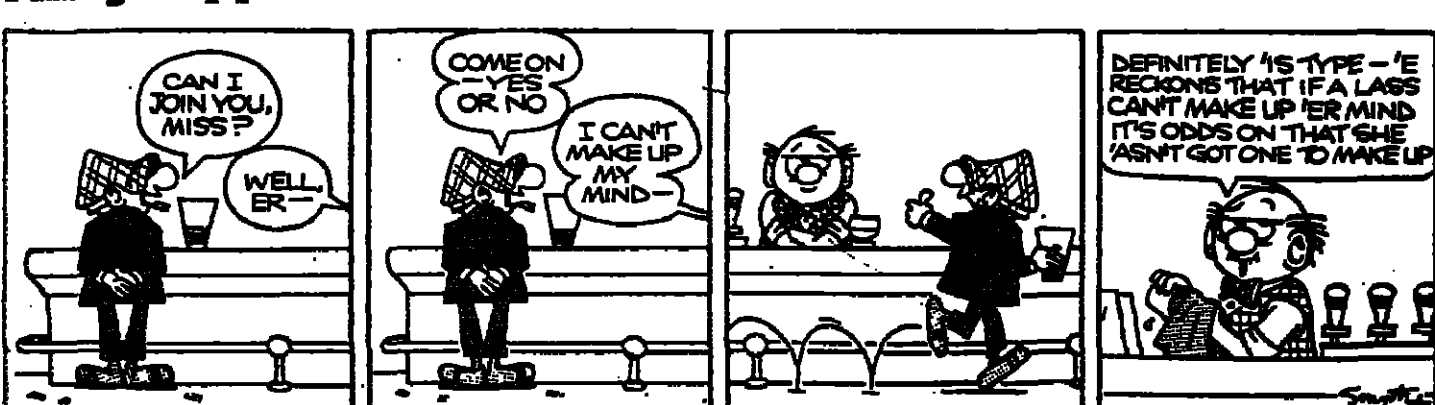
Sampras turned back two games points and broke the 79th-ranked Pate in the fifth game of the opening set to establish a lead he refused to relinquish.

Fate failed to convert two break opportunities in the seventh game of the second set, then double faulted away the eighth to give Sampras a 5-3 lead.

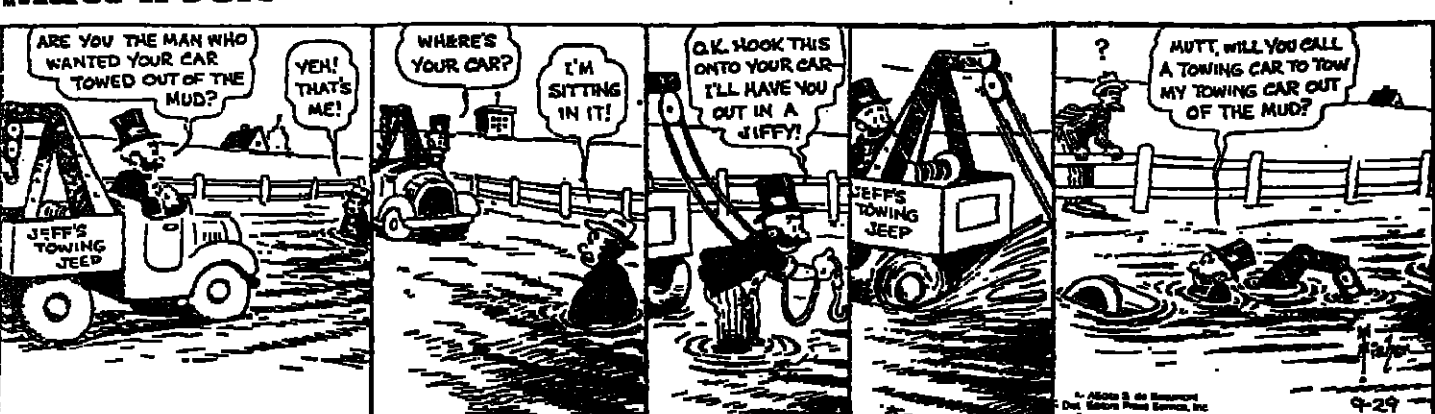
Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY APRIL 7, 1991

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) You certainly can get at the studies of your choice to gain the understanding that can help you in the future but sidestep tempting pleasures.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Now you are able to find the means by which to have a greater abundance of the things that mean the most to you so expand your horizons today.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Now there are a considerable number of personal objectives that can be yours so long as you do not limit to too small an environment.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Think out what is best for you to do that can work up a better understanding of what is important by meditation and concentration.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Think over that social party you want to give or that charming group that has for you to be more a part of them in the future and decide what you want.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Your worldly position is not as secure as you would like to have it so show today that you are a solid citizen who does what is right by laws.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) You have many new ideas that are very good and so long as you confine your activities to today's pursuits and to those close at hand of different views.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Make a point to think

deeply upon anything that mystifies you and then let the answers come to the surface for you have prophetic insight deep within.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Let those who have your interests at heart know you want to be more closely allied with them in some joint project now and your position becomes stronger.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Make sure you show those who are important to you that you serve their interests as well as your own and they will be very much touched.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) You can have one of your happiest of days so long as you steer clear of a person who is unreliable and take no big risks for usual allies.

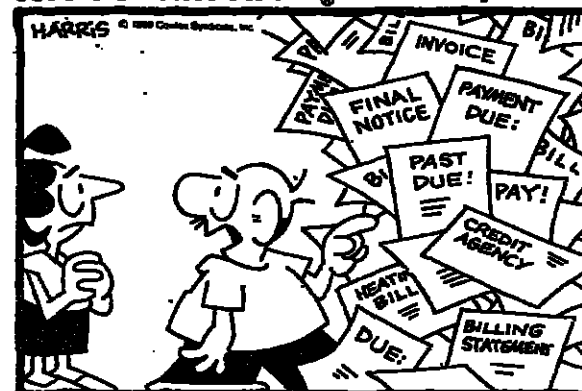
PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) You can entertain or relax at your own residence and have a very happy day but be sure you avoid an official or higher-up who is in a touchy frame of mind.

Today's child: If your child were born today she, or he, will have a pretty difficult time adjusting to conditions as they exist in early life but with patience on your part as the parent etc. you will be able to give them the training that can be most helpful to them and will bring to the surface the natural responses.

"The stars impel, they do not compel." What you make of your life is largely up to you.

THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris



"I'm going in there to find the roof repair bill. Bring me some bread crumbs to leave a trail!"

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR MONDAY APRIL 8, 1991

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Getting in touch with some pretty influential persons happens more or less as an accident today but there are others who will want to claim the credit in exchange for some future favor.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) You are able to think out what to do but carrying through is a different matter unless you make up your mind early to carry it out.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Financial interests should be paramount in your mind and if you avoid any heavy or hasty commitments and spend wisely this can be a good day.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) You can all over the place today unless you channel your energies and your forces that you do those things that can bring you success.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) You feel you are very much imposed upon and need to be less concerned with your own hurt personal feelings than with helping others.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) This is your day to be social without pressuring others to see and do things your way which would be a natural reaction to today's forceful aspects.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Now that you are interested in getting things done in the world of outside activity you would be wise to follow through with promises made.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) This is the day for you to seek all kinds of new information that can be helping to you without

having long time allies feel you are deserting them.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) You have all sorts of obligations to meet and that is all right excepting you may be too eager to get out from under them which would be most unwise.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) This is your time to find out what-whether expect of you instead of trying to lay down the law to them on how you want things done.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Now you have lots of work of all kinds to do and you'd be wise if you pitch in and do it yourself without expecting those around to assist.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) This is the day for you to have some very pleasant and happy moments during your spare time but you don't have to spend all the money you have.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Your own residence could be the scene of quite a doozybrook if you stir up any points of contention with members of your family for everyone is too sensitive.

Today's child: If your child were born today she or he maintains a very practical nature and a secure structure of his or her mental processes despite fabricated inferences to the contrary. This is the chart of a successful business person later in life who will need to acquire special knowledge of real estate, building and construction.

"The stars impel, they do not compel." What you make of your life is largely up to you.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAMAR HIRSCH
1990 Tribune Media Services, Inc.

THE PERCENTAGE PLAY

East-West vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ J 4
♥ A K 10 8
♦ 10 9 3 2
♣ 7

WEST
♠ Q 5 2
♥ Q J 2
♦ A 8 5
♣ J 10 9 8

EAST
♠ K 10 9 8 7 6
♥ 5 4
♦ 4
♣ 6 5 4 2

SOUTH
♠ A 3
♥ 7 6 3
♦ K Q 7 6
♣ A K Q 3

The bidding:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
2 NT Pass 3 ♠ Pass
3 ♠ Pass 4 ♠ Pass
4 ♠ Pass 4 NT Pass
5 ♠ Pass 6 ♠ Pass
Pass Pass

Opening lead: Jack of ♠
By and large, you don't have to know the exact percentages to find the winning line. But once in a while a deal comes along, such as this hand from the World Mixed Pairs Championship in Geneva, Switzerland, where knowing the odds can pay off handsomely.

North-South were using 15-17 points as their range for a no trump opening bid, so South's jump to two no trump covered balanced hands of 18-19. The five-spade response to Blackwood showed two aces and the king of trumps, and the result was a speculative slam that would have been much better had North's major-suit knave been in hearts, rather than spades, to lead.

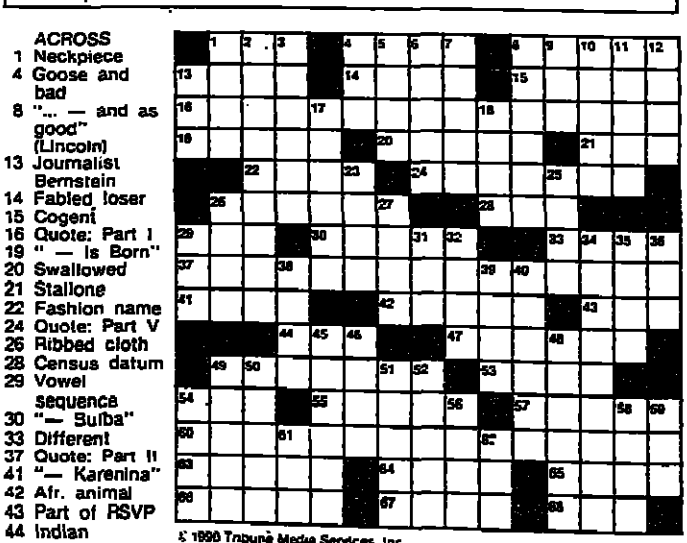
Declarer won the opening club lead in hand and immediately forced out the ace of trumps. The club return was won and a spade was shuffled from dummy. The outstanding trumps were drawn and declarer was faced with how to tackle the hearts.

There were two possibilities: Cash a heart honor in the hope of finding East with a singleton honor, then finesse West twice for the remaining honor; or play West for both honors by taking an immediate finesse. Playing East for a queen-jack doubleton was not a realistic option.

Now you have to know your odds. Taking two finesses against West offers a 22 percent chance of success. Finding East with a singleton honor occurs about 6 percent of the time. (A 4-1 break occurs just over 28 percent of the time, and two of the 10 combinations are germane.) So declarer led a low heart, finessed the eight and all was well.

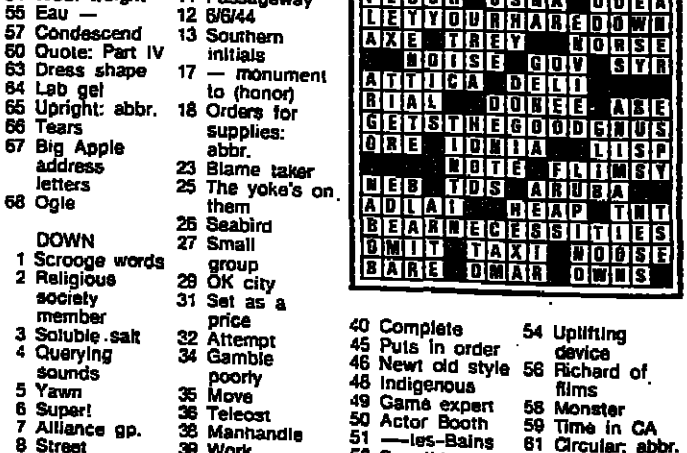
THE Daily Crossword

by Thomas W. Schler



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Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:



12 banks agree to lend Investcorp \$250 m

BAHRAIN (R) — Bahrain-based Investcorp E.C., which is owned by Gulf shareholders, said Monday 12 international banks had agreed to finance a \$250 million loan for its main holding company in Luxembourg.

The three-year Eurodollar loan facility for Investcorp S.A., was priced at 65 basis points per annum over the London Inter Bank Offered Rate, including the underwriting fee, the bank said in a statement.

The loan, which is being coordinated by Bankers Trust Company and J.P. Morgan, was increased to \$250 million from an initially planned \$200 million due to strong interest, the statement said.

It was the fifth medium-term syndicated financing arranged by Investcorp in six years.

Owned by shareholders in Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, Investcorp channels private Arab investment into Western companies.

Its 1990 net profit rose by 28 per cent to a record \$66.3 million despite the Gulf crisis.

U.S. study shows law protection level to jobless

WASHINGTON (AP) — The number of Americans filing new unemployment claims jumped to the highest level in eight years last month, the government said in a report dampening hopes of a quick end to the recession.

Meanwhile, a private study said a smaller percentage of jobless Americans received benefits in 1990 than during any other recession year since World War II.

The bleak jobless claims data from the Labour Department showed applications topping a half-million for the third straight week.

The separate study showing that only 37 per cent of the nation's jobless received unemployment benefits last year brought renewed calls for the U.S. administration action.

President George Bush needs to "take a trip beyond the beltway and discover the naked truth about unemployment in 1991," Tom Downey, who has introduced legislation to shore up the unemployment insurance system, said as the report came out.

"These are human tragedies — working Americans and their families coping with the financial and psychological strains of unemployment," Downey said.

His legislation would force states to ease eligibility requirements for assistance, and reinstate the extended benefits programme, so that the unemployed people could receive benefits longer than the current 26-week limit.

With jobs so scarce, Downey and others have complained, Americans who get laid off need more than 26 weeks to find another source of income.

As of February, more than 1.6 million had lost their jobs since last June.

The jobless claims report showed that 513,000 people filed new claims for the week ending March 23. It was the third straight month that the number topped a half-million — a streak that had not happened in more than eight years.

The 543,000 total was a 33,000 increase over the previous week and the biggest one-week level since January 1988, the Labour Department said.

The separate study on unemployment insurance said the 37 per cent of jobless Americans receiving coverage last year was a record low for a year in which the U.S. economy was in a recession. "This low level of protection... is unparalleled," the report said.

During 1975, for instance, when the country also was in a recession, 75 per cent of the nation's unemployed received benefits, the report said.

The report is the latest in a string of criticisms of the unemployment insurance system, which was created in the 1930s as a cushion for jobless Americans during lean economic times and as a way to keep money flowing through the economy.

Saudis seen losing money on sale of jet fuel stocks

DUBAI (R) — Saudi Arabia may only raise half of what it paid when it sells surplus jet fuel stocks amassed in. The expectation of a prolonged ground battle in the Gulf war, oil industry sources say.

"They (the Saudis) will get a beating on that, but storing the stuff also costs a lot," a Gulf-based oil trader said.

Saudi Arabia banned fuel exports after Iraq invaded Kuwait last August and channelled all its jet fuel and diesel oil output to meeting the needs of the U.S.-led military coalition.

The kingdom also bought jet fuel and diesel from the spot market to boost stocks.

Gulf-based traders estimate a tonne of jet kerosene cost Saudi Arabia around \$45 in January including freight, due to high prices and strong demand at the time, but the product now fetches around \$22 a tonne when sold out of the Gulf.

The traders said it was difficult to estimate the amount of fuel spent by the allied forces during the Gulf war.

Saudi Arabia bought more than 1.1 million tonnes of jet fuel and gas oil in January from the spot market which it stored on land and on tankers moored offshore.

Jet kerosene is used by fighter planes, turbine-powered warships and some tanks, while gas oil is the basis for diesel oil, used by land-based fighting and transport vehicles.

The Saudi oil refining and marketing arm Samarec included in a sales tender issued last Tuesday 35,000 tonnes of JP-5, a highly specialised fuel used by the United States air force.

"Guess who is going to buy the JP-5," one trader said, suggesting the only possible buyer could be the U.S. air force.

JP-5 was in extremely short supply in the Gulf after Iraq invaded Kuwait as the emirate had the only refineries capable of processing it in the region.

The U.S. military shipped supplies from Singapore and the Mediterranean.

Since mid-March Samarec has issued tenders to sell a total 300,000 tonnes of jet kerosene and 238,000 tonnes of gas oil.

Traders said this could depress prices in the spot market as demand declines at the end of the northern hemisphere winter.

"These tenders will not do any good to middle distillate (gas oil and kerosene) prices in April and May," one oil trader said.

However, Samarec has not yet concluded any kerosene and gas oil supply contracts for the rest of 1991 and the existing contracts expire at the end of April.

As a result, some traders said the Saudi tenders for May should not push prices any lower.

The traders said they did not know when Samarec will start discussions on new kerosene and gas oil contracts.

Japan analysts see dollar a bit firmer by year-end

TOKYO (R) — Economists in Tokyo, many taken by surprise by the dollar's sudden surge, are warily forecasting the U.S. currency will end the year somewhat above current levels but below last year's highs.

"When we look at the economic fundamentals, we can see a case for a stronger dollar, but not for the dollar panic that's going on now," said Robert Feldman, an economist at Salomon Brothers Asia Ltd. "By mid to late this year, the yen may be a bit weaker and the mark about where it is now."

Expectations late last year that a U.S. economic recession and high Japanese interest rates would spell a weaker dollar have been turned on their head by rising confidence in a U.S. economic recovery and growing pessimism about the costs of German unification.

"All together, it's been a complete reversal of what we thought," said Nobuyuki Ueda, a senior economist at the Long-Term Credit Bank of Japan Ltd. "The question is, how long will this persist? We don't think it will continue as a steady and rapid yen fall/dollar rise."

Economists said they expected the dollar to finish 1991 above 140 yen but below 150 yen and around 1,700-1,800 marks.

That would be well off Tokyo's 1991 intraday lows so far of 127.40 yen and 1,554 marks and close to its 1990 Tokyo intraday high against the mark of 1,733.

However, it would also be well short of its 1990 intraday high here against the yen of 160.35.

"We don't see it rocket-fuelled to the 160-170 yen range," said Peter Morgan, economist at Barclays de Zoete Wedd Securities (Japan) Ltd.

Discrepancies in U.S. and Japanese economic cycles and in world interest rates along with worries about the German economy and Soviet political unrest are behind expectations of a stronger dollar.

"There will be a gentle weakening of the yen, mainly because of the discrepancy between the U.S. and Japanese economies," said Toshiaki Kakimoto, chief economist at Sumitomo Bank Ltd. "Japanese economic growth will slow down from now on, and the U.S. economy, while not gaining at such a steep pace, will bottom out and gain."

Probable interest rate differentials also point to a stronger dollar against the yen and the mark.

Economists say the U.S. Federal Reserve Bank is likely to ease rates only a bit more before tightening monetary policy as the economy gathers steam. Japanese and German central bankers, meanwhile, are expected to ease later this year.

Optimism about the U.S. economy may prove to be overdone. If renewed doubt about the strength of the U.S. recovery emerges later this year, it could undermine the dollar, economists said.

"Disappointment about the U.S. economy and U.S. budget problems will probably come back to haunt the dollar," said UBS Phillips and Drew International Ltd economist Russell Jones.

"The market is dreaming of a U.S. recovery, but its dream may have gone too far," Kakimoto said.

Pessimism about Germany and Soviet instability may also prove to be overblown.

"Before, the market looked at unification as very positive, now it is solely concerned with the negative cost," Ueda said. "But that may have gone too far."

The point about the Soviet Union is that for all the psychological weight, the economic ties are not so great as to cause that much disruption to Western economies if there is a crackdown," Feldman said.

Japan's economy is slowing but remains healthy. "Japan's relative economic performance is still looking good in terms of just about every indicator you'd care to name," Jones said.

A sharp dollar surge would also likely prompt more concerted central bank intervention, especially since a dollar rise much beyond current levels would dampen U.S. exports and thus threaten a U.S. recovery.

"Exports are critical to the U.S. recovery so the U.S. doesn't want to see the dollar go up too much," Kakimoto said.

India's sugar exports may increase by 200,000 tonnes

NEW DELHI (R) — India, faced with surplus sugar stocks and perilously low foreign exchange reserves, may export another 200,000 tonnes of sugar in calendar 1991, a food and civil supplies ministry spokeswoman has said.

"There are surplus stocks and we can export an additional 200,000 tonnes. But no decision has been taken yet," she said. The

plan could push exports of the world's largest sugar producer to nearly 400,000 tonnes in 1991.

The Indian Sugar Mills Association (ISMA) said it was not aware of further moves to export.

"We have not been told of any additional exports above the allocated 200,000 tonnes set (by government) for this year," S.S. Jain, secretary general of the

Indian Sugar Mills Association, said in a telephone interview.

"I am not sure you can find a market for the additional stocks... we are already selling at a loss each time," he said.

India was selling sugar at a loss because the sugar mills break-even cost was well above the \$294 a tonne sugar is currently fetching in the international markets, Jain said.

Greek airline decides not to furlough workers

ATHENS, Greece (AP) — Olympic Airways, Greece's national carrier, rescinded a decision to furlough 1,800 workers in exchange for a one-year no-strike agreement.

Newspapers said the Olympic Airways employees union promised not to call any strikes for one year. The union also said the 1,800 workers will not seek overtime payments and will work on holidays without extra pay.

The 1,800 workers were to have been furloughed April 1 for a maximum three-month period as part of Olympic's efforts to deal with an accumulated debt of nearly \$1 billion.

Olympic Airways has also struck a deal with 3,500 workers, mostly technical support staff and ground crews, for pay cuts of 12.5 per cent. About 3,000 pilots, co-pilots, flight attendants and engineers also agreed to similar salary cuts to avoid being furloughed.

Olympic Airways, with an estimated 11,000 employees, had to reduce flights by 30 per cent in mid-January to help contain its debt. The reductions were not directly related to the war in the Gulf.

Seoul lends Moscow \$500 million

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — South Korea has signed an agreement to provide the Soviet Union with a \$500 million commercial loan as part of a \$3 billion economic assistance package.

The loan, provided by the Korea Development Bank and nine other commercial city banks, should be paid back over five years after a three-year grace period.

It carries an annual interest rate of the London Inter Bank Offered Rate (LIBOR), which is a median rate for international loan payments, plus 1.25 per cent.

It was the first South Korean loan provided under a \$3 billion economic assistance package that Seoul has pledged to the Soviet Union.

The Korean package includes \$1 billion in commercial loans, \$500 million for the purchase of Korean capital goods and \$1.5 billion in Export-Import Bank credit for imports of consumer goods from South Korea.

South Korean officials said the remaining loans will be provided in the next two or three years.

EC resigned to different stock systems in single '92 market

BRUSSELS (R) — After two months of study, the European Community (EC) has conceded that the only way to get around a key single investment law is to permit vastly different systems of share trading and regulation after 1992.

A new investment services directive which Luxembourg, current holder of the revolving EC presidency, wants Community finance ministers to endorse, says member states should be free to choose their system of trading provided this does not harm another member.

"What Luxembourg is aiming for is a compromise where there is a kind of competitive coexistence within the different market models," said one EC diplomat involved in the bargaining.

The plan has upset bankers in the 12 EC states by siding with those who want to keep restrictions on stock exchange membership after 1992.

But it offers compromise between the opposing camps in other key disputes — trading outside regulated markets and reporting requirements for stock, futures, options and bond transactions.

"It is not a perfect solution," said Jean Guill, Luxembourg chairman of the group which has been trying to bridge the gap.

It is trying to reconcile the more liberal approach of the northern European states — led by Britain — with the preference for tighter regulation in the south.

The directive would extend to securities the "single passport" which from 1993 will allow banks approved in one member state to operate throughout the bloc.

But it has been mired for months in the fighting between London and rivals over the continent for supremacy in the EC securities markets after 1992.

Finance ministers in February formed a group to examine the disputes. EC financial services commissioner, Sir Leon Brittan, has urged Britain, France and Germany to be flexible.

The result is the Luxembourg plan which Guill hopes will be the basis of a deal by the end of its EC presidency on June 30.

The plan has angered bankers by suggesting member states could stop banks from joining stock exchanges or other regulated markets unless they establish a specialised subsidiary. The restrictions would be reviewed by the end of 1995.

It also says a majority of coun-

tries could accept a delicate balance between the demand of the southern countries for all trading to be concentrated on regulated markets, and the northern countries insistence on the investors' right to choose over-the-counter markets such as London's SEAO share market.

On the issue of reporting requirements, Luxembourg has suggested that within 24 hours of a transaction in securities, future, options and some bonds a declaration be made to national regulators listing the amount, date, and hour of the transaction and the investment house.

But Gill said Luxembourg intends to exempt the Eurobond market from the plan and to allow for aggregated reporting of some other bond transactions because they are traded within a small circle of professional firms.

This follows a complaint from the London-based Association of International Bond Dealers that the reporting requirements for bonds in earlier drafts of the law were too onerous.

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| AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES | | | | |
|-----------------------------|--------|--------|------------------------|-------------|
| Monday, April 8, 1991 | | | | |
| Central Bank official rates | | | | |
| | Buy | Sell | Japanese yen (for 100) | 494.0 497.0 |
| U.S. dollar | 677.0 | 681.0 | Dutch guilder | 355.4 357.5 |
| Pound Sterling | 1191.8 | 1199.0 | Swedish krona | 111.0 111.7 |
| Deutschemark | 400.2 | 402.6 | Italian lira (for 100) | 53.9 54.2 |
| Swiss franc | 474.1 | 476.9 | Belgian franc (for 10) | 194.7 195.9 |
| French franc | 118.3 | 119.0 | | |

| LONDON EXCHANGE RATES | | | | |
|--|---------------|------------------|--|--|
| Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Monday. | | | | |
| One Sterling | 1.7620/30 | U.S. dollar | | |
| One U.S. dollar | 1.1542/47 | Canadian dollar | | |
| | 1.6913/20 | Deutschemark | | |
| | 1.9035/45 | Dutch guilder | | |
| | 1.4285/92 | Swiss franc | | |
| | 34.795/3 | Belgian franc | | |
| | 5.7200/50 | French franc | | |
| | 12531/254 | Italian lire | | |
| | 136.70/80 | Japanese yen | | |
| | 6.0875/25 | Swedish crowns | | |
| | 6.5770/20 | Norwegian crowns | | |
| | 6.4830/80 | Danish crowns | | |
| One ounce of gold | 358.70/358.20 | U.S. dollars | | |

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RAINBOW
Adel Imam — Mirvat Amin in
TIT FOR TAT
(Arabic)
3:30, 8:30 p.m.

Cinema Tel: 634144
PHILADELPHIA
MICKEY ROURKE...IN
A PRAYER FOR THE DYING
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De Klerk rejects ultimatum; whites arrested at ANC march

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — President F.W. de Klerk angrily rejected demands he curb black faction fighting or face a breakdown in talks to end apartheid, as police reported Saturday two more deaths in the ongoing violence.

"Unfortunately, it appears as if the ANC is trying to draw political gain from this situation," De Klerk said late Friday.

Earlier, the group in its toughest threat yet vowed to suspend talks unless De Klerk takes steps to end township violence, including firing the ministers of defence and law and order.

De Klerk's negative response seemed likely to intensify tensions between the two sides and delay formal negotiations on ending white-minority rule.

Also Saturday, an explosion ripped through a bus that was to carry ANC members to a march to press for another demand, the release of political prisoners. No one was injured.

Police arrested right-wing leaders for trying to disrupt another ANC rally. They included Piet Rudolph, who was recently freed from prison under a government amnesty for political prisoners.

Right-wingers oppose De Klerk's plan to end apartheid and his almost year-long talks with ANC leaders.

The ANC says the issue of township violence is the greatest threat to the negotiations. It demanded Friday that De Klerk take action to end the bloodshed, including firing Defence Minister Magnus Malan and Law and Order Minister Adrian Vlok.

The ANC threatened to suspend the talks if its demands are not met by May 9.

In response, De Klerk late Friday denied allegations that the government was not doing enough to bring about peace. He accused the ANC of coming up with new demands "now that we are entering the strait of removal."

ing obstacles" to negotiations on a new constitution.

Most violence has involved supporters of the ANC and its main rival, the Inkatha Freedom Party. The ANC has often accused security forces of siding with the conservative Inkatha group.

In the latest unrest, police said Saturday a man was stabbed and hacked to death overnight in Soweto outside Johannesburg. Three more men were injured in the township when they were attacked by a mob with axes.

In Natal province, a man was killed and four were wounded when a group fired on them. The report had no other details.

In Krugersdorp, west of Johannesburg, police said the explosion in a bus that was to carry about 60 ANC members from a black township to the Krugersdorp Prison blew out windows of nearby homes.

There was no claim of responsibility.

But Friday, a pamphlet from the right-wing group "White Wolves" had threatened to violently disrupt the Krugersdorp march, one of five planned nationwide to demand freedom for political prisoners.

In Pretoria, north of Johannesburg, two right-wing leaders and about 10 supporters were arrested after they refused to leave a square where the ANC planned to begin a march.

Those arrested included Eugene Terre'Blanche, leader of the Afrikaner Resistance Movement, and Rudolph, an extreme right-wing group. Rudolph, freed from prison last month, had been accused of stealing weapons from air force headquarters in Pretoria last year.

The ANC march went on as planned.

The government agreed in August to release political prisoners, but the ANC said it is not moving swiftly enough.



John Tower
Sen. Tower, 22 others killed in plane crash

ATLANTA (R) — Former Texas Senator John Tower, his daughter, and a U.S. astronaut were among 23 people killed Friday when a twin-engine commuter aircraft crashed at Brunswick, Georgia.

Brunswick Airport authorities said there were no survivors aboard the Atlantic Southeast Airlines plane which crashed shortly before landing at the airport.

Larry Nelson, a spokesman for Tower's Dallas law firm, Tower, Eggers and Greene, Consultants Inc., said the firm had confirmed that Tower was on the plane and was dead.

Nelson said Tower, a former Senate Armed Services Committee chairman and President George Bush's first choice to become his secretary of defence, was travelling with his 34-year-old daughter Marian.

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration also reported that Manley "Sonny" Carter, an astronaut who flew a shuttle mission for the U.S. Defense Department in 1989, was also on the flight.

The space agency informed the crew of shuttle Atlantis, currently orbiting the Earth, of Carter's death.

Federal Aviation Authority (FAA) spokesman Lee Duncan said the plane crashed while making its final approach to Brunswick Airport at the end of a flight from Atlanta with 20 passengers, a crew of two pilots and one flight attendant.

Bush said Friday that the death of Tower was a tragic loss and that he was saddened by it.

"I am so sorry about that, so said," Bush told reporters during a visit to Universal Studios where he was participating in the taping of a television show.

"It is a tragic loss. I started with John Tower in politics in Texas 30 years ago. We were friends then and remained friends until this very moment. It's a sad day," Bush said.

Shuttle crew prepare for major tasks

HOUSTON (R) — The space shuttle Atlantis sailed smoothly about Saturday as its five astronauts prepared for the deployment of a 17-tonne space observatory and the first U.S. spacewalk since 1985.

The four men and one woman aboard the shuttle have to test spacesuits and lower the cabin pressure in preparation for the two primary tasks of their five-day mission.

NASA flight controllers reported virtually no problems aboard the Atlantis, which lifted off flawlessly from Cape Canaveral, Florida, Friday.

"Everything has remained quiet here on the planning shift. Flight directors are not working any major anomalies (problems)," NASA Flight Commentator Pam Alloway said just before the astronauts were awakened early Saturday while their spacecraft cruised over the Pacific Ocean.

An alarm indicating water in the shuttle cabin sounded shortly after the crew started moving around Saturday morning, but flight Commander Steve Nagel reported that no water was to be found. Ground controllers thought it might have been touched off by the astronauts using the toilet, NASA spokeswoman Barbara Schwartz said.

The crew is scheduled to test the space suits that two of them, mission specialists Jerry Ross and Jay Apt, will use on Monday on the first American spacewalk since December, 1985.

The crew will also keep the suits close at hand to venture out into space if a problem crops up during the Sunday deployment of the gamma ray observatory.

The cabin pressure has to be lowered to match that of the spacesuits in case the astronauts must move quickly to assist with the observatory launch.

The \$617-million gamma ray observatory, which is one of the heaviest payloads ever put into space aboard the shuttle, will be placed in orbit 450 kilometres above Earth and will be used by scientists to look for sources of ultra-high-frequency radio waves called gamma rays.

Gamma rays, which are not visible from the Earth's surface, are thought to hold secrets about the origin of the universe and the formation of heavy metal elements.

India, Pakistan sign pacts to check war threat

NEW DELHI (R) — India and Pakistan signed military security agreements Saturday aimed at preventing a fourth war between the two neighbours.

One agreement on preventing air space violations would permit overflights and landing of military aircraft in each other's territory. Another provides for advance notice of troop movements and military exercises, India's Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

The agreements were signed by Indian Foreign Secretary Mukund Dubey and Pakistani Foreign Minister Shaharyar Khan, after military commanders worked out the details in meetings earlier this week in Delhi.

India and Pakistan have already pledged not to attack each other's nuclear installations since the foreign ministers began a dialogue on confidence-building measures last July.

The two armies have fought artillery duels and skirmishes recently along a 1,400 kilometres ceasefire line that divides the disputed Himalayan territory of Kashmir.

Pakistan denies frequent Indian accusations that it arms and shelters Kashmiri militants fighting for independence or merger with Pakistan in the two-thirds of Kashmir ruled by India.

The ministers have extended their talks in Delhi for another day to thrash out other differences, particularly over Kashmir, a Foreign Ministry source said.

Protesters burnt effigies of Indian and Pakistani leaders in the territory's summer capital Srinagar Friday night during a general strike protesting that Kashmiris were not represented at the talks in Delhi.

The strike was called by the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front, the most prominent of a dozen militant groups battling 200,000 Indian security forces deployed in Jammu and Kashmir, India's only Muslim-majority state.

Two of the three wars India and Pakistan have fought since both became independent in 1947 have been over Kashmir and the revolt there brought them to the brink of a fourth last year.

In 1986, India staged its

biggest-ever war games in the northern state of Punjab, prompting Pakistan to rush troops and armour to the border.

Meanwhile, two Swedish engineers spent a seventh day in captivity after they were kidnapped last Sunday by the Muslim Janbaz (Crusader) Force (MJF).

The group, one of the best-armed of the militant outfits, said it had no demands for the ransom of Johan Jansson and Olle Loman other than to call the world's attention to their cause.

An MJF spokesman said in a call to an international news agency that the brother and mother of one of the group's political leaders had been picked up by authorities and told they would be freed when the Swedish engineers were released.

Kashmiri police had no immediate comment on the claim.

More than 2,400 people have been killed since the campaign in Indian-ruled Kashmir became an open revolt 15 months ago.

India's president Saturday dismissed the elected government of Haryana state, which is ruled by the son of the deputy prime minister, and put it under central rule, Indian news agencies reported.

President Ramaswamy Venkataraman dismissed Haryana's 16-day state government on the recommendation of Prime Minister Chandra Shekhar's cabinet after Om Prakash Chautala, son of Deputy Prime Minister Devi Lal, lost his majority in the state assembly.

Haryana, a highly volatile state which has changed chief minister five times in the past 18 months, became the fifth Indian state to fall under central rule as the country heads toward a general election next month.

Lal, a burly, 76-year-old peasant leader, told reporters after a cabinet meeting Friday night that he agreed with the decision to sack his son in the interest of "maintaining healthy democratic traditions."

Chautala, who was chief minister of Haryana three times, is general secretary of the ruling Janata Dal (Socialist) Party. His father is the president.

35 dead, 750 injured by strong earthquake in Peru

NUOVA CAJAMARCA, Peru (R) — Residents of this remote town in northeastern Peru held wakes for their loved ones and braced for more aftershocks following a powerful earthquake left at least 35 dead and hundreds injured.

Victims of the quake, which shook the region with an intensity of 6.2 on the Richter scale shortly before midnight Thursday, slept on mattresses in the streets and built makeshift homes with sheets around the main square.

It was the second time in less than a year that a strong earth-

quake struck the region in Moyobamba, which lies along a fault in Peru's Amazon jungle near the Brazilian border. Over 100 people died in the tremor last May.

In the capital Lima, civil defence spokesman Colonel Lucio Segarra said latest reports showed 28 dead and 347 injured.

Civil Defence chief General Manuel Panchanco and an aide of Acting President Maximino San Roman travelled to the region in a plane with ten tonnes of medicine, food, and other aid.



Spanish becomes sole official language of Puerto Rico

SAN JUAN (AP) — In a ceremony steeped in cultural pride, Gov. Rafael Hernandez Colon has signed into law a body of legislation making Spanish the sole official language of Puerto Rico.

The measure revokes a 1902 law designating both English and Spanish as official languages. Addressing more than 2,000 invited guests at San Juan's Centre For the Performing Arts, Hernandez Colon called the new law a historic measure that will preserve Puerto Rico's centuries-old Spanish heritage.

Some critics have said the real purpose of the Spanish-only law is to solidify congressional opposition against admitting Puerto Rico as the 51st U.S. state. A bill pending in the U.S. Congress would allow Puerto Rico to hold a referendum this year on whether to remain a commonwealth, become a state, or break away to form an independent nation. It is now stalled in the U.S. Senate with little hope of approval.

During his speech, the governor also emphasised the importance of expanding English fluency among the Caribbean island's 3.6 million residents. Fewer than 25 per cent are fully bilingual in Spanish and English.

"Today, we proclaim with pride that the language of this vanguard culture is Spanish, but we also reaffirm that to master English is of vital importance to the Puerto Rican people," the governor said. Among the speakers was Manuel Alvar Lopez, president of the Spanish Royal Academy in Madrid. His counterparts from Venezuela, Colombia and the Dominican Republic also attended. The House of Representatives, by a vote of 32-10, gave final legislative approval to the Spanish-only bill.

Although the new law is politically explosive, it is unlikely to have much practical effect. Most Puerto Rican government business already is conducted in Spanish. U.S. government agencies and the federal courts will continue to use English.

Manatee rescued from nuclear plant pond

HUTCHINSON ISLAND, Florida (AP) — A manatee who eluded rescue from a nuclear plant cooling pond for two months was netted, Natalie, a 1,200-pound (540-kilogram) sea mammal was nicknamed, was discovered on Feb. 1 at the St. Lucie Nuclear Plant after apparently being sucked into the pond through a large pipe extending into the ocean. After evading rescuers on five occasions, she was finally surrounded with a 400-foot (120-metre) shark net and pulled ashore, apparently in good health. She will be released into the ocean. About 1,200 of the endangered manatees remain in Florida's coastal and inland waters.

Con artists use phone to cash in on recession

WASHINGTON (AP) — Con artists are cashing in on the recession with telemarketing scams that promise credit cards, loans, even jobs in Kuwait, consumer advocates and regulators said. "The telephone is the weapon of choice" for today's swindlers and they are using special numbers to prey on the jobless, said Linda Goldner, executive director of the National Consumers League.

The schemes exploit bad credit ratings, bankruptcies and fears that the loan market is tight, said a consumer coalition calling itself the alliance against fraud in telemarketing. A rash of "900" numbers and newspaper ads have surfaced in recent weeks touting jobs to rebuild Kuwait. The "900" is a calling service where fees are usually charged by the minute to the caller. But Middle East job prospects right now are dim and phone-callers are wasting their money, the coalition said at a news conference. Some of the 900-number promotions can cost job-seekers \$100 apiece for data about which companies are doing business in Kuwait. In fact, much of the work is months or years away, said the coalition. When jobs do become available, state and federal government agencies will provide information about them for free, said Stephen Jones of the Council of Better Business Bureaus. The taped message on one 900 number recited an address so rapidly that construction workers looking for jobs had to call repeatedly to write it down.

58 killed in Sri Lankan fighting

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP) — At least 58 people were killed Friday in fighting between government forces and Tamil rebels in strife-torn northern and eastern Sri Lanka, military officials said Saturday.

The victims including 17 security personnel, 37 rebels and four civilians.

Officials said the Tamil Tiger rebels, seeking independence for the Tamil minority in predominantly Sinhalese Sri Lanka, were stepping up attacks in response to recent military successes.

"The rebels have started attacking in several different places, possibly trying to divert attention," a senior military official said on condition of anonymity.

Rebels ambushed a military patrol in Panchchankeni village in the eastern Batticaloa district and shot to death 12 soldiers, and troops from a nearby military camp killed 12 rebels in a counter-attack, the officials said.

At least 25 guerrillas were believed to have been killed in an assault on a rebel hideout at Nanathan village in northeastern Mannar district, they said.

"A large number of bloodstains in the bunkers indicated rebel casualties," said one official. The rebels normally carry away their slain comrades.

The soldiers seized grenades, explosives, gas masks and combat uniforms from the Tiger bunkers.

In another attack Friday, rebels blew up an army truck in the

northeastern Trincomalee district, killing an officer and a soldier, the officials said. Six soldiers were injured.

In the same district, rebels shot to death three Muslim women and a child as they were bathing in a river in Mollipathana village. Two soldiers on guard duty at the village also were shot to death.

A soldier and a police commander were fatally shot in separate incidents by Tiger rebels in the eastern province, the officials said.

Meanwhile, the death toll of Sinhalese fishermen killed by Tiger rebels in an attack in Trincomalee district Wednesday was believed to have risen to 27, officials said.

Bhutto vows not to quit politics

KARACHI (R) — Pakistani opposition leader Benazir Bhutto says the government wants her to give up politics but she will never do it.

"I will never quit politics," the former prime minister told a rally of her Pakistan People's Party (PPP) outside Karachi on Friday night.

She said she was facing all sorts of pressures to give up politics from members of the ruling Islamic Democratic Alliance (IDA) whom she called remnants of late President Mohammad Zia Ul Haq's martial law government.

"If I can face martial law, I can confront its remnants as well," she told the rally at a village 32 kilometres east of Karachi.

Bhutto became the Muslim world's first elected woman leader in December 1988 after 11 years of military-led rule and was dismissed by President Ghulam Ishaq Khan 20 months later on disputed charges of abuse of power.

In the past Bhutto has said authorities had suggested to her that she leave the country after her sacking on Aug. 6 last year, a charge denied by government spokesmen.

She is facing eight charges of abuse of power before special tribunals and her jailed husband Asif Ali Zardari is facing more than a dozen charges, including those of conspiring to murder.

"When I refused to leave the country, repression was let loose on my party leaders, workers, family members and myself," Bhutto said.

"My party leaders are facing mass arrests, kidnapping, murders and all sorts of threats," she added.

She said authorities had framed false cases against her to force her to leave the country. "I will not leave my country."

Bhutto had earlier lived in self-exile in Europe before returning in 1986 to campaign against Zia, who died in a still unexplained plane crash in August 1988.

She said the government was afraid of her because masses supported her. "Otherwise, there is no reason for them to be afraid of a woman. In an effort to cut the masses' support they have launched a malicious propaganda campaign."

The PPP-led People's Democratic Alliance blamed its crushing defeat in last October's election on alleged rigging by an IDA-led interim government installed by Ishaq Khan after sacking Bhutto. The government denies the rigging charge.

"We will closely observe the judiciary procedures involving her," the statement said, adding that Bhutto demonstrated "personal courage" on the night of Jan. 6 when she was taken hostage and held at gunpoint.

Aristide, in remarks broadcast on radio, said he supported the court's decision to release Trouillot.

"I suffered when I learned that Mrs. Trouillot had been brought under arrest but I had to respect the judiciary's decision," Aristide said.

The president also said that prosecutors would continue an inquiry into the Jan. 6 coup "and continue tracing government funds that disappeared during Trouillot's term in office."

Trouillot served as interim president of the Caribbean nation for one year until democratic elections were held and Aristide was sworn in as president.

Her tenure in office was marked by a stormy relationship with Haiti's Council of State, an interim group of lawmakers who criticised Trouillot for failing to arrest and prosecute several key Duvalierists, including Lafontant.

Kennedy nephew named as suspect in alleged rape

PALM BEACH, Florida (R) — Police said Friday that William Kennedy Smith, a nephew of Massachusetts Senator Edward Kennedy, was a suspect in the alleged rape of a woman at the Kennedy estate here last Saturday.

"The suspect (named by the alleged victim) in this alleged sexual battery is William Smith, a white male, 30 years old from Washington, D.C.," police spokesman Craig Gunkel said at a hastily called press conference.

He declined to provide any more information.

"All we can say is we've identified this particular suspect as a suspect and that's all I can elaborate on at this time," Gunkel said.

Smith has previously denied any involvement in the incident.

A 29-year-old Florida woman alleged that she was raped at the Kennedy family compound here last Saturday morning.

The woman told police she met Smith, Senator Edward Kennedy, and his son, Patrick Kennedy, at a bar and was invited to the Kennedy estate for a few more cocktails.

The police confirmation that Smith was a suspect in the case came soon after a circuit court judge ruled that the Palm Beach Police Department had the right to keep information about their investigation secret.

Lawyers representing two newspapers and a television sta-

Former Haitian president released from jail

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (R) — A court has ordered the release of former Haitian Provisional President Ertha Trouillot from jail, one day after the 47-year-old former judge was arrested and charged with participating in a January coup.

Government prosecutor Anthony Alouidor told Reuters the court decided to free Trouillot, provided she did not leave the capital city of Haiti until she is cleared of the charges.

"Mrs. Trouillot has always come to the hearings when summoned and has not tried to leave the country as others have," Alouidor said. "We are confident that if we need to question her in the future, she will come."

Trouillot was arrested Thursday at her home in Port-Au-Prince and charged with being an accomplice in an unsuccessful Jan. 6 coup carried out by Roger Lafontant, a former interior minister and reputed head of the Tonton Macoutes militia under the Duvalier family dictatorship.

Lafontant, who staged the coup to prevent elected President Jean-Bertrand Aristide from taking office in February, has since said that Trouillot willingly handed over power to him.

"We will closely observe the judiciary procedures involving her," the statement said, adding that Trouillot demonstrated "personal courage" on the night of Jan. 6 when she was taken hostage and held at gunpoint.

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Her tenure in office was marked by a stormy relationship with Haiti's Council of State, an interim group of lawmakers who criticised Trouillot for failing to arrest and prosecute several key Duvalierists, including Lafontant.

Trouillot and 300 other former government employees were barred from leaving Haiti pending an investigation into missing government funds.

tion had asked circuit court Judge Richard Offidal to force Palm Beach police to make public details of their investigation, charging there was an attempt to cover-up the probe simply because it involved the Kennedys, the country's best known political dynasty.

The judge ruled that release of the information to possible witnesses or suspects in the case could hamper investigators.

Reporters and photographers from Europe and across America have descended on this wealthy resort, scrambling for details on another potential scandal involving the Kennedy family.

The woman has taken the unusual step of hiring her own team of lawyers to monitor police progress in the case.

According to a brief statement, Smith's Washington attorney, Mark P. Schnapp, has refused to allow his client to speak to investigators.

In Washington Senator Kennedy released a statement that said "being named a suspect does not mean one has committed an offence. When all the facts come out, I'm confident Willie will be vindicated."

Sergeant Bill Atkinson, the lead investigator in the case, said it was now up to the district attorney's office to decide on their plan of action, which he said could possibly include either a subpoena or an arrest warrant for Smith.

posed to last for at least 60 days, called the incident an aberration. The city of Los Angeles, however, was estimated to have paid a record \$11.3 million last year to resolve lawsuits alleging police misconduct, such as excessive force.

Under a proposed legal settlement which the city attorney will now agree to, the Police Commission, which is appointed by Mayor Tom Bradley, will be ordered by a court to reverse its suspension.

City attorney James Hahn Gates could return to being police chief within a matter of days.

The controversy has divided the city into Gates supporters, including police and conservative groups, and people who say Gates must go, headed by Bradley and including black and other community activists.

Bradley said he was concerned the council action could set a precedent. "This matter should be decided by the courts, not by the politicians," he said.

Police officers, some of whom wore black ribbons over their badges, normally a sign of mourning, for Gates, claimed Friday he had been virtually placed under house arrest.

Hurd visit fails to bring agreement on Hong Kong airport

PEKING (AP) — British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd said Saturday that he and Chinese leaders in three days of talks failed to agree on plans to build a new Hong Kong airport.

"It was not possible to reach full agreement" on the airport dispute or on Hong Kong's financial stability after 1997, when the British colony reverts to Chinese rule, Hurd said.

Hurd told a news conference his talks with Premier Li Peng, Communist Party chief Jiang Zemin, Foreign Minister Qian Qichen and other officials.

Hurd failed to win China's support for Hong Kong's plan to build the multibillion-dollar airport, despite agreeing to include China in decision-making even before it regains control of Hong Kong.

"Where important matter straddles 1997... we shall welcome Chinese views and take account of them where we can. I believe this is a position which is

reasonable," he said.

China and Hong Kong have been at odds since Hong Kong announced last year that it plans to build a new \$16.2-billion airport and port. The existing airport quickly is reaching capacity.

China was angered that it was not consulted, saying it should have a voice in decision-making that will affect Hong Kong after 1997. Peking considers the airport plans too extravagant but has not said what price tag it considers reasonable.

Chinese backing is crucial for getting private investors to help fund the project.

Several rounds of Hong Kong-Chinese talks on the airport ended in stalemate, and Hurd's visit was viewed as a last chance to reach a compromise.

But Hurd said his task "has proved difficult," and was able to report only that "we cleared away some quite serious misunderstandings."

agreement remained, including China's concern that building the airport will deplete Hong Kong's coffers by the time Peking regains control of the territory.

Hurd refused to give other details.

Also at issue is political control of Hong Kong during the last years of British rule. China has appeared in recent months to be seeking de facto joint rule of the colony with its open opposition of the airport project, intervention in a Hong Kong farmland dispute and criticism of Hong Kong law enforcement.